WORLD YMCA

2026

Transform

21st YMCA World Council

Toronto, Canada | 19-25 July 2026

Nominations Book

Executive Committee Election Candidates
presented to National Movement delegates

EVENT	DATES	LOCATION	CANDIDATES
21st World Council	19-24 July 2026	Toronto, Canada	18 Nominees

This Nominations Book is a comprehensive list of all candidates who have been endorsed by their YMCA National Movement to stand as an Officer or Member of the World YMCA Executive Committee for the period 2026-2030.
It also provides details of the responsibilities and duties of the Officers and Members of the Committee, due for election at the 21st World Council, 19-24 July 2026.

Chemin de Mouille-Galand 1 · 1214 Vernier · Geneva, Switzerland Published May 2026 · World YMCA Elections Committee

Elections Committee

Members overseeing the 2026 election process

CO-CHAIR
Patricia Pelton
Canada

CO-CHAIR
Peter Posner
United Kingdom

MEMBER
Babu Markus Gomes
Bangladesh

MEMBER
Eliza Vas *
Romania

MEMBER
Anaclara Rodrigues
Uruguay

MEMBER
Daniel Doiron
Canada

MEMBER
Alain Douglas Wandji Kamga
Cameroon

MEMBER
Raine McAngus *
USA

EX OFFICIO
Soheila Hayek
Lebanon

EX OFFICIO
Carlos Sanvee
Togo

World YMCA RELATED SECRETARY
Duncan Chowdhury
USA

** Eliza Vas (Romania) served until March 2025; Raine McAngus (USA) served until December 2025.*

SUMMARY

All the candidates at a glance

20 candidacies across all positions and regions

NAME	POSITION	NOMINATED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YMCAS OF:	AREA	GENDER	UNDER 30
Christopher Lewis	President	Australia	**ASIA & PACIFIC**	Male	No
Sarah Bremner	Deputy President	Scotland	**EUROPE**	Female	No
Emma Osmundsen-White	Deputy President	Eng & Wales	**EUROPE**	Female	No
Ronald Senghore	Deputy President	Gambia	**AFRICA**	Male	No
Laurie Lynn Skinner	Treasurer	Canada	**CANADA**	Female	No
Pius Kamau Ng'ang'a	ExCo Member	Kenya	**AFRICA**	Male	No
Nalisoa Andrianarivo	ExCo Member	Madagascar	**AFRICA**	Female	**Yes ≤30**
Christopher Lewis	ExCo Member	Australia	**ASIA & PACIFIC**	Male	No
Dr. Betsy Merilyn Williams	ExCo Member	India	**ASIA & PACIFIC**	Female	No
Charis Gabriel Lim	ExCo Member	Singapore	**ASIA & PACIFIC**	Male	No
Yau Chung Wan (Joshua)	ExCo Member	Hong Kong	**ASIA & PACIFIC**	Male	No
Czieloh Jomea Villajin	ExCo Member	Philippines	**ASIA & PACIFIC**	Female	**Yes ≤30**
Sarah Bremner	ExCo Member	Scotland	**EUROPE**	Female	No
Lena Revekka Schickhaus	ExCo Member	Germany	**EUROPE**	Female	**Yes ≤30**
Jean Paul Mifsud	ExCo Member	Malta	**EUROPE**	Male	No
Gabriel Stabile Lopes Da Silva	ExCo Member	Brazil	**LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN**	Male	**Yes ≤30**
Diego Sandoval Landabur	ExCo Member	Chile	**LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN**	Male	**Yes ≤30**
Cecilia Rojas	ExCo Member	USA	**USA**	Female	No
Mary Kathryn Beck	ExCo Member	Canada	**CANADA**	Female	No
Maurine Kouba	ExCo Member	East Jerusalem	**MIDDLE EAST**	Female	**Yes ≤30**

Candidates for President

One candidate has been nominated to lead the World YMCA Executive Committee for the 2026–2030 term.

1	1
CANDIDATE	SEAT AVAILABLE

AUSTRALIA

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Christopher Lewis

Male

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

Christopher has been a committed YMCA leader for over a decade. He serves as a member of the World Alliance Executive Committee, a Director of YMCA Australia, and Chair of YMCA Safeguarding, a harm-prevention charity dedicated to child safety. He previously served as President of YMCA Australia, during which time he guided the movement through significant transformation. In these leadership roles, he has strengthened national structures, championed safeguarding for children and young people, advanced national advocacy, and empowered young leaders.

Christopher is deeply motivated by the belief that young people can thrive when supported. Throughout his career, he has mentored, coached, and developed young leaders, combining his expertise in governance and risk with his passion for people. For him, strengthening governance and financial sustainability is not an end in itself, but a way of ensuring that the YMCA can continue to empower future generations.

The expertise Christopher brings to the YMCA comes from more than 35 years of international leadership in governance, risk management, and organisational transformation. His career has included senior roles as a Partner at KPMG and PwC, working across Australia, New Zealand, the USA, the UK, China, and Asia, and as an Executive at National Australia Bank, one of Australia's largest financial institutions, with global responsibility for risk management. In these roles, he has led large teams, advised multinational organisations, and strengthened governance structures across the globe.

His vision for the YMCA Global Movement is to build a stronger, more united movement rooted in its Christian identity, while ensuring that every YMCA finds its place within the global family. He believes unity is about celebrating diversity while working towards a shared mission, and that the YMCA must continue to be a voice of hope, inclusion, and opportunity in a changing world. He believes in elevating the YMCA's global strategy to amplify its voice for young people and communities worldwide, and in strengthening governance to engage young leaders at every level.

Christopher is committed to ensuring the World Alliance is financially sustainable through transparent and consistent fair share obligations, and to deepening connections across the movement so that knowledge, resources, and opportunities are shared openly. He is also determined to advance Vision 2030, supporting YMCAs everywhere to make meaningful progress on its four pillars. For Christopher, promoting a Sustainable Planet means equipping young people to be environmental stewards. Building a Just World means standing against inequality and ensuring the YMCA remains a defender of human rights. Strengthening Community Wellbeing means investing in health, belonging, and safety in every community the YMCA serves. Creating pathways to Meaningful Work means ensuring young people everywhere have opportunities to learn, contribute, and shape the future.

Christopher has a lifelong commitment to the local community church, with extended involvement with the Salvation Army and more recently through the Baptist Church and draws strength from his faith. Away from governance tables and boardrooms, Christopher values time spent mentoring emerging leaders, contributing to community initiatives, and investing in the next generation.

Christopher believes his journey, spanning global professional leadership, national YMCA transformation, and a deep commitment to safeguarding and youth empowerment, has prepared him to serve as President. At this moment in the YMCA's history, with Vision 2030 as the shared compass, he is ready to help guide the movement into its next chapter of unity, relevance, and impact.

Candidates for Deputy President

Three candidates from three regions are standing for the one Deputy President position.

3
CANDIDATES

1
SEAT AVAILABLE

SCOTLAND

CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Sarah Bremner

Female

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

Rooted in the YMCA since childhood, with 17 years of volunteering across local, national and global levels, I bring both lived commitment and strategic governance experience to my candidacy for Deputy President. My lifelong connection to the Movement has shaped my values, leadership style and vision for a YMCA that is united, impact-led and forward-looking. Alongside my YMCA commitments, I work as a Primary School Teacher specialising in Additional Support for Learning. This role has sharpened my skills in team leadership, strategic planning, and inclusive practice.

The YMCA has given me opportunities that have profoundly shaped my life. I am motivated to give back through strategic leadership, building on the progress we have made in implementing Vision 2030 and helping to shape the Movement's post-2030 strategy. As Deputy President, I would work to strengthen the bonds between out local, national and international YMCA, ensuring that youth voices are purposefully valued in all levels of decision-making, especially within office bearer positions. My focus would be on fostering an inclusive governance culture that supports innovation, transparency and unity.

Locally, I'm currently the Chairman of Dumfries YMCA (since 2023), overseeing financial planning, building strategic partnerships and ensuring a clear separation between operational and governance responsibilities. I have sat as a Trustee of local YMCAs for thirteen years and was a youth representative for 3 years prior to this. Nationally, I began on the Youth Committee before joining the Executive Committee, where I am currently Vice-Chair (since 2018) and Chairman of the International Sub-Committee (since 2022).

Internationally, I have attended YMCA Europe events, I am a World YMCA Change Agent, 1st cohort graduate, and attended the 2014, 2018 and 2022 World Councils. My service on the World YMCA Executive Committee - including the Governance Sub-Committee - has strengthened my ability to lead strategic conversations, navigate diverse perspectives and build consensus across cultures.

Key competencies I bring include:

- Strategic Leadership - Proven ability to align local, national and global strategies, ensuring that decisions support the Movement's shared goals.
- Cross-Cultural Collaboration - Extensive experience working with colleagues from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, ensuring inclusive and respectful governance.
- Facilitation and Mentorship - Skilled at chairing committees, guiding discussions and mentoring younger leaders to ensure youth perspectives are integrated into decision-making.
- Governance Acumen - Deep knowledge of Board processes, policy development and fiduciary oversight, with the ability to balance strategic priorities with practical realities.
- Advocacy and Representation - Experienced in representing the YMCA at international events and as a spokesperson within diverse stakeholder settings.

The YMCA's mission to empower young people resonates deeply with my own values and professional work. I have seen first-hand how creating safe spaces for open dialogue, fostering community wellbeing and building opportunities for meaningful work can transform lives. My passion lies in ensuring that every young person - regardless of background - has access to these opportunities.

YMCA now has the opportunity to elect younger office bearers. At 31, I bring a younger perspective, a leader that has grown through the YMCA and gained significant governance experience at multiple levels. As Deputy President, I would champion Vision 2030 while helping to lead the process for the Movement's next strategic framework - promoting deliberate, solution-focused discussions, building strong partnerships and preparing the YMCA to thrive beyond 2030.

The YMCA has shaped who I am - as a leader, as an educator, and as an individual. If elected, I will work with the President, Executive Committee and Secretary General to strengthen governance, promote inclusion and ensure that the YMCA remains a global partner of choice. My goal is to inspire young people to step into leadership roles, ensuring the Movement's vitality for generations to come.

ENGLAND & WALES

CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Emma Osmundsen-White

Female

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

I am motivated to serve as Vice President on the World YMCA Executive Committee because I believe in the power of good governance to shape a Movement that remains inclusive, effective, and impactful. As President of YMCA Europe, now in my second term, I have led the region through significant change, including responding to the war in Ukraine, renewing our strategy, and restructuring our constitution. This has reinforced my commitment to governance that is adaptive, transparent, and representative.

My motivation is rooted in my Christian faith and service to the YMCA's mission—empowering young people and strengthening communities. At the global level, I believe I can help ensure that strategy and governance remain aligned with Vision 2030 and responsive to real-world challenges. I am passionate about supporting a unified, youth-led Movement that holds itself to high standards and invests wisely in its future.

If elected, I aim to:
- Strengthen governance that reflects shared values
- Build stronger bridges between regions and global leadership
- Advance strategies that are financially, socially, and environmentally responsible
- Champion inclusive leadership and youth participation

I bring extensive governance and leadership experience across the YMCA Movement and beyond:
- President, YMCA Europe (2020–Present): Led constitutional reform, strategic renewal, and the Ukraine conflict YMCA response.
- Vice Chair, YMCA England & Wales: Provide strategic leadership and oversight for a national body supporting over 80 local YMCAs.
- Trustee, YMCA Exeter: Active at the local level, supporting frontline youth and community services.
- Trustee, George Williams Fund (Europe): Supporting the work of YMCA Europe and investing in its sustainable future.
- Chair, Passivhaus Trust UK: the national authority on energy-efficient building standards.

At the World YMCA level, I currently serve on:
- Impact Investment Committee
- Constitution Sub-Committee
- Strategy Committee

I am also a Chartered Director and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Directors, recognised for excellence in board leadership and nonprofit governance. I hold a Diploma in Company Directorship and a Masters in Leadership and Change.

My professional and volunteer leadership experience equips me with the skills to contribute meaningfully to the World YMCA. I have a strong background in strategy, finance, and risk oversight, alongside deep experience in leading organisations through transition and innovation. I am committed to fostering a culture of accountability, inclusion, and sustainability.

I am a Chartered Surveyor with 30 years of professional experience delivering multi-billion-pound property developments, predominantly social housing, and to exemplar environmental standards – of which I have a global reputation. I am a public sector director working in London and I am vocationally driven to deliver a positive impact for people, planet and in place-making. Voluntarily, my property expertise is utilised by the YMCA at a local, national and international level to deliver positive outcomes for young people and their communities.

I believe my contribution to the Executive Committee as Vice President would be to:

- Work alongside and support the President, Treasurer and General Secretary
- Mentor, help and encourage Executive Members to ensure diverse voices, particularly young leaders, are represented
- Apply tested governance expertise to support effective decision-making
- Strengthen global solidarity by connecting regional experiences with global priorities
- Advocate for sustainable growth, ensuring the YMCA's resources are stewarded responsibly

In summary, I offer proven leadership, a passion for inclusive governance, and a deep commitment to the YMCA's global mission. I seek election not only to serve but to help ensure that the World YMCA continues to inspire, empower, and unite generations in building a more just and sustainable future.

GAMBIA

CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Ronald Senghore

Male

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

I am Ronald Senghore, a Gambian professional and lifelong YMCA volunteer with over twenty-five years of service to the movement. From my early years as a youth leader at the Gambia YMCA to my current roles in governance at national, continental, and global levels, the YMCA has shaped my leadership journey, my values, and my commitment to empowering young people and transforming communities.

I am motivated to put myself forward because I believe the YMCA plays a unique role in shaping young leaders and transforming communities. Young people today face challenges such as unemployment, climate change, and shrinking civic space, yet they also have great potential to lead. I want to use my skills and experience to strengthen the YMCA as a platform where young people can thrive and to contribute to advancing Vision 2030.

I currently serve as Chair of the Governance Committee at the World YMCA Executive Committee, having been re-elected in 2022. I also chair the Governance Committee of the Africa Alliance of YMCAs and serve as Vice Chairperson of The Gambia YMCA, roles that keep me engaged at regional and grassroots levels.

I was first elected to the World YMCA Executive Committee in 2018, where I helped lead the organization during the COVID-19 pandemic. I was part of the EXCO team that established the Solidarity Fund to support YMCAs in crisis and co-organized the Youth-Led Solutions Initiative on climate justice and the future of work. Being re-elected in 2022 has allowed me to continue this work and to contribute to the implementation of Vision 2030.

I hold a BSc in Management (Cum Laude) and have completed specialized training in Entrepreneurship, Change Agent, Peer Health Education, and Communications. Professionally, I bring more than 17 years of experience in Marketing and Communications. I am a Marcom Manager at Africell Gambia Ltd; the country's leading telecommunications company, where I have led national campaigns, managed teams, and built partnerships with government, civil society, and the private sector. I have overseen major projects such as the Future Leaders project, The Freedom Concert, Work for Peace and a 25,000 Tree Planting Initiative across the country.

In addition, I host The 20–22 radio show on Afri-Radio, where I engage young people on empowerment and national issues. This platform allows me to amplify youth voices and create dialogue on matters that affect them most.

My core competencies include strategic communication, governance, project management, and stakeholder engagement. These skills directly support the YMCA's Vision 2030 priorities by strengthening governance structures, building effective partnerships, and empowering young people to take leadership in areas such as meaningful work, community well-being, sustainable planet, and just world.

What keeps me passionate about the YMCA is its impact. The YMCA gave me opportunities to lead, to learn, and to grow, and I want to see many more young people experience the same. I have seen YMCA programmes nurture entrepreneurs, mobilize communities for climate action, and inspire young people to lead with confidence.

With my governance experience, professional background, and passion for youth empowerment, I am committed to contributing actively to the Executive Committee. My skills will help ensure sound decision-making, transparent governance, and the representation of diverse voices, keeping the YMCA at the forefront of empowering young people for the transformation of communities.

Candidates for Treasurer

One candidate has been nominated to serve as Treasurer of the World YMCA.

1
CANDIDATE

1
SEAT AVAILABLE

CANADA

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

Laurie Lynn Skinner, FCPA, FCA, ICD.D.

Female

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

My motivation to serve on the World YMCA Executive Committee stems from a deep commitment to and belief in the transformative power of the YMCA movement. My involvement with the YMCA spans local leadership in Newfoundland and Labrador, national governance with YMCA Canada, and global engagement as a co-opted member of the World YMCA Finance Committee. These experiences have shown me the power and the impact of the YMCA. Attending the World Council 2022 and the 2024 Accelerator Summit, participating in the Executive Committee Meeting in India, and visiting the East Jerusalem YMCA have deepened my understanding of the movement's global reach and diversity. These moments reinforced my belief in the importance of inclusive leadership, financial sustainability, and strong governance to advance the YMCA's mission.

I am inspired by Vision 2030 and its adaptable framework for transforming lives and communities. As we continue implementing Vision 2030, I see a valuable opportunity to help shape World YMCA's strategic direction through financial stewardship and governance excellence.

With my background as a CPA (Fellow); a strong commitment to governance excellence demonstrated by my ICD.D designation obtained through formalized governance training; and extensive leadership experience, I am motivated to serve as Treasurer. I aspire to help build a resilient organization that empowers, inspires, and mobilizes youth globally.

Governance / Board of Directors Leadership Experience

My governance experience spans both professional and volunteer roles. In my professional career, I reported to Boards of publicly traded corporations with revenues ranging from $350-$720 million and assets between $300-$400 million. I held senior leadership roles within the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, including as Deputy Minister of Finance, where I managed a $7.5 billion budget and contributed to economic and social policy development. In my volunteer capacity, I serve on the Finance Committee of the World YMCA in an advisory role. At YMCA Canada, I served as Chair of the Board and participated in key committees including Executive Human Resources; the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council; Nominations and Governance; and Finance, Audit and Risk, overseeing an organization with $20 million in revenue and $35 million in assets, including an investment portfolio of $27 million. At YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador, I also served as Chair of the Board and led committees such as Nominations and Governance; Development; Strategic Planning; and Audit/Finance, supporting an organization with $7.3 million in revenue and $15.5 million in assets.

Competencies for Executive Committee Deliberations and Advancement

I bring over 25 years of senior executive and strategic leadership experience. My competencies include financial strategy, internal controls, policy development, operations, risk management, information technology, governance, and human resources. I have worked across multiple sectors including public accounting, publicly traded companies, government, non-profits, entrepreneurial ventures, and education. These experiences have equipped me with the skills to contribute meaningfully to Executive Committee deliberations and to help the World YMCA achieve its strategic goals through sound governance and financial leadership.

Passion for the YMCA Impact

My passion for the YMCA is rooted in its ability to create inclusive, empowering spaces for youth and communities. The YMCA has shaped my leadership journey and continues to inspire my commitment to service. I actively promote the YMCA's mission, encouraging others to engage through advocacy, storytelling, and leadership. I am especially passionate about helping the YMCA thrive in regions where infrastructure is limited, by strengthening governance, building partnerships, and ensuring financial sustainability. I am honoured to be part of this movement and energized by the opportunity to help guide its future.

Africa

Two candidates nominated by YMCA National Movements in Africa. Two seats available for the Africa region.

2
CANDIDATES

2
SEATS AVAILABLE

KENYA

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Pius Kamau Ng'ang'a

Male

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

1) What motivates my nomination?

My life purpose has been to advance youth empowerment which is rooted in my years of volunteering and service at local branch and national board levels and currently as the national president of the Kenya YMCA. I believe in the YMCA vision and purpose of applying Christian values in leadership to drive positive change globally.

2) Governance and Board of Directors Experience

- Founder and Chief Executive Officer (2006-current) of Capital Strategies Kenya Limited, a business consultancy firm based in Nairobi.
- Committee Member (2020-2023), Sector Training Committee of the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA).
- Current and founding Chairman, SIYB Association of Kenya, a membership organisation.
- Co-opted Board Member and Local Treasurer (2023-current) for the African Alliance of YMCAs (AAYMCA).
- National President, Kenya YMCA (2023 – Current); National Treasurer, Kenya YMCA (2016-2023); Branch treasurer, Thika Branch (2003-2006).
- Board Chairman (2015-2023), Board of Management (BOM), Gatituini Secondary School, Muranga County, Kenya.
- Secretary (2010-2012), Board of Directors, Living Water International Kenya.

3) Competences for Executive Committee Deliberations

- Academic qualifications: Currently finalising a PhD degree in Entrepreneurship at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. Hold an MBA degree from the University of Nairobi, a bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics from Kenyatta University. Hold several post graduate qualifications in business management, enterprise development and finance.

- Consultancy Experience: I have provided advisory services and been engaged in consultancy work for international organisations such as The World Bank, USAID, USADF, FCDO and DANIDA; UN Agencies such as ILO, IFAD, IOM, UNDP; Financial Institutions like KCB Bank Limited, Equity Bank Ltd and Cooperative Bank Ltd and various Government Agencies.

4) Passion for YMCA Impact

For the past 25 years, the YMCA has inspired my life in an immense way and provided me with a deep passion for community service, fervour for youth empowerment and transformation of communities.

I have served the YMCA at various levels. As National President of Kenya YMCA, I have contributed to youth development and upskilling. Under my leadership, Kenya YMCA has expanded its local (Ajira Kenya and NITA) and international partnerships (ILO) while establishing links with local banks HFC Bank and KCB. These partnerships amongst others have enabled the movement to reach about 500,000 youth annually, allowing beneficiaries to improve their employability and entrepreneurship skills. These interventions also align with the World YMCA Vision 2030 to empower young people, particularly the pillar on meaningful work.

MADAGASCAR

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Nalisoa Andrianarivo

Female Under 30

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

Nalisoa Andrianarivo joined YMCA Madagascar in 2016 as a member of an environmental club, which she co-led the following year. Since 2018, she has been actively involved at the regional level through programs such as Young Advocate for Change and the Subject to Citizen (S2C) Ambassadors, experiences that deepened her understanding of the African context and strengthened her belief in the potential of African youth. She was also a participant in the fourth cohort of Change Agents. Her YMCA journey has shaped her identity, encouraged her to take bold steps, learn from mistakes, and continuously grow.

For Nalisoa, the YMCA has always been a space where young people can thrive: discover their identity, recognize their strengths, work on their weaknesses, and become the change they wish to see in their communities.

In 2022, she was elected to the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of YMCAs, where she has served on the Strategic Alignment Committee. In the same year, she also joined the Executive Committee of the African Alliance of YMCAs. Through these roles, she has gained better understanding of essential topics including governance, policies, strategy, guided by the principle of keeping her “nose in but fingers out,” while continuing to learn more about areas such as finance.

Nalisoa holds a degree in Education Science and has worked as a teacher and pedagogical advisor in primary and secondary schools in Madagascar. She also serves as a language consultant for development organizations focusing on inclusive education and disability inclusion. These roles have taught her that true impact comes from listening and empowering people as agents of change rather than treating them only as beneficiaries.

She is also an alumna of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), having completed certified training in civic leadership through the University of South Africa.
As the world faces turbulent times and major changes, Nalisoa is committed to contributing to a YMCA that adapts to evolving realities, remains relevant to the people and communities it serves, and continues to work towards building a Just World.

Asia & Pacific

Five candidates nominated by YMCA National Movements across the Asia-Pacific region. Two seats available for the Asia Pacific region.

5
CANDIDATES

2
SEATS AVAILABLE

AUSTRALIA

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Christopher Lewis

Male

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

Christopher has been a committed YMCA leader for over a decade. He serves as a member of the World Alliance Executive Committee, a Director of YMCA Australia, and Chair of YMCA Safeguarding, a harm-prevention charity dedicated to child safety. He previously served as President of YMCA Australia, during which time he guided the movement through significant transformation. In these leadership roles, he has strengthened national structures, championed safeguarding for children and young people, advanced national advocacy, and empowered young leaders.

Christopher is deeply motivated by the belief that young people can thrive when supported. Throughout his career, he has mentored, coached, and developed young leaders, combining his expertise in governance and risk with his passion for people. For him, strengthening governance and financial sustainability is not an end in itself, but a way of ensuring that the YMCA can continue to empower future generations.

The expertise Christopher brings to the YMCA comes from more than 35 years of international leadership in governance, risk management, and organisational transformation. His career has included senior roles as a Partner at KPMG and PwC, working across Australia, New Zealand, the USA, the UK, China, and Asia, and as an Executive at National Australia Bank, one of Australia's largest financial institutions, with global responsibility for risk management. In these roles, he has led large teams, advised multinational organisations, and strengthened governance structures across the globe.

His vision for the YMCA Global Movement is to build a stronger, more united movement rooted in its Christian identity, while ensuring that every YMCA finds its place within the global family. He believes unity is about celebrating diversity while working towards a shared mission, and that the YMCA must continue to be a voice of hope, inclusion, and opportunity in a changing world. He believes in elevating the YMCA's global strategy to amplify its voice for young people and communities worldwide, and in strengthening governance to engage young leaders at every level.

Christopher is committed to ensuring the World Alliance is financially sustainable through transparent and consistent fair share obligations, and to deepening connections across the movement so that knowledge, resources, and opportunities are shared openly. He is also determined to advance Vision 2030, supporting YMCAs everywhere to make meaningful progress on its four pillars. For Christopher, promoting a Sustainable Planet means equipping young people to be environmental stewards. Building a Just World means standing against inequality and ensuring the YMCA remains a defender of human rights. Strengthening Community Wellbeing means investing in health, belonging, and safety in every community the YMCA serves. Creating pathways to Meaningful Work means ensuring young people everywhere have opportunities to learn, contribute, and shape the future.

Christopher has a lifelong commitment to the local community church, with extended involvement with the Salvation Army and more recently through the Baptist Church and draws strength from his faith. Away from governance tables and boardrooms, Christopher values time spent mentoring emerging leaders, contributing to community initiatives, and investing in the next generation.

Christopher believes his journey, spanning global professional leadership, national YMCA transformation, and a deep commitment to safeguarding and youth empowerment, has prepared him to serve as President. At this moment in the YMCA's history, with Vision 2030 as the shared compass, he is ready to help guide the movement into its next chapter of unity, relevance, and impact.

INDIA

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Dr. Betsy Merilyn Williams

Female

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

I am Dr. Betsy Merilyn Williams, 40 years old, with a Ph.D. in English Literature from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, India. I come from a family deeply connected to the YMCA movement, where my parents, Rolland Williams and Geetha Williams, have been active members of the YMCA Visakhapatnam for more than four decades.

My father, Rolland Williams, has contributed significantly to the growth of the YMCA at both the regional and national level. He served as the President of YMCA Visakhapatnam for nine years, as Vice President of the National Council from 2009 to 2012, and again as President of the Indian YMCA in 2015. He was also honoured to serve as a World Council Executive Member from 2014 to 2018.

I am honoured to submit my nomination for the position of Executive Committee Member. My journey with the YMCA spans over 30 years, beginning in my childhood with summer coaching classes at YMCA Visakhapatnam, where I learned swimming and skating. Over the years, my involvement grew as I actively participated in youth programs and attended numerous regional and Asia-Pacific conferences, which shaped my leadership outlook and global perspective.

From 2012 to 2015, I served as a Board Member of YMCA Visakhapatnam and was appointed as a Change Agent for the World Council. During this period, I had the privilege of attending the World Council in Denver as a delegate, an experience that broadened my understanding of global youth engagement and strengthened my commitment to the YMCA movement.

In 2020, I was elected as the Executive Member, and in 2023, I became the first woman National Vice President of NCYI. These milestones were not only personal achievements but also significant steps forward in creating inclusive leadership opportunities for women in the YMCA.

My main interest in the World Alliance is to learn more about its administration, programmes, activities, and objectives, particularly its service towards the four pillars of impact—community well-being, meaningful work, a sustainable planet, and a just world.

As part of my community involvement, I have organized medical camps, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, I was actively engaged in outreach work, serving in underprivileged slum areas to provide essential needs and support. These experiences have strengthened my dedication to creating impact through service, compassion, and inclusive leadership.

SINGAPORE

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Charis Gabriel Lim

Male

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

My desire to serve on the World YMCA Executive Committee (EC) stems from a deep belief in the movement's transformative power and a profound commitment to its continued global impact. I am motivated by the opportunity to lend my leadership and passion to an organization that effectively nurtures youth, promotes healthy living, and fosters social responsibility worldwide. Inspired by the YMCA's dedication to inclusivity and its tangible influence on countless lives, I am eager to play a more direct role in shaping its future direction.

As Board President of Metropolitan YMCA Singapore (MYMCA), I oversee an 1,800-employee organization with an annual turnover of US$120M. MYMCA delivers vital community impact programs for children, youth, and marginalized families, alongside successful social enterprises in hospitality, urban farming, and eco-stewardship. This role has provided extensive governance experience and a comprehensive understanding of effective oversight and strategic decision-making within a large, multi-faceted organization.

During my tenure at MYMCA, I was instrumental in developing a strategic plan aligned with World YMCA's Vision 2030, intentionally guiding MYMCA to maintain its relevance through social innovation. This demanded a keen ability to analyze complex issues, engage diverse stakeholders, and ensure fiscal prudence. My experience extends to corporate leadership as CEO of Research Communication International, where I spearheaded regional government initiatives in leadership and human capital analytics. These combined non-profit and corporate experiences are directly transferable to the responsibilities of the EC.

Academically, I hold a Bachelor's and a Master of Philosophy degree with high honors from the University of Cambridge. Currently, I serve as an Adjunct Fellow at the Singapore University of Technology & Design. I also sit on the Executive Board of the Trinity Annual Conference as well as the Executive Council of the Methodist Church in Singapore. My board service spans multiple corporate, community, church, and education sectors.

My core competencies for the EC include strong strategic planning abilities, financial acumen, and effective communication skills. I possess a proven track record of facilitating robust deliberations, ensuring all perspectives are considered for well-informed decisions.

I am deeply passionate about the YMCA's ability to drive significant positive change globally. Having personally witnessed the profound impact of our youth mental health programs on local families in Singapore, I am committed to leveraging my skills and experience to ensure the World YMCA remains a vibrant, responsive, and indispensable pillar of communities worldwide for generations to come.

HONG KONG

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Yau Chung Wan (Joshua)

Male

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

By profession, I am an educator, by faith, I am an elder of a Reformed Church in Hong Kong.

My journey of YMCA service began 50 years ago when I was the founding principal of a secondary school in Hong Kong New Territories. I worked closely with the social worker from YWCA and the youth centre of Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong (CYMCA). These dedicated youth services with Christian values drew me to become a member of the New Territories Service Committee of CYMCA.

Since 2000, I joined the Board of CYMCA to practise 'to serve but not to be served'. I was elected as CYMCA Vice-President (2007-2009) as well as President of the Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong (2009-2011), and gradually involved in the global YMCA movement.

I chaired the Host Organisation Committee of the World Council 2010 in Hong Kong, and was elected the President of APAY (2011-2015) and served the WAY Executive Committee as an ex-official member. During my term, I implemented capacity building through leadership development and promoted global citizenship through education and youth projects in APAY.

Upon completion of service as APAY President, my focus turned to local movement and served as CYMCA Vice-president (2014-2017), President (2017-2021). Apart from leading CYMCA to provide services for our community during Covid, I also led the establishment of services on health care, ethnic minorities, as well as social enterprises during this period.

My motivation to serve the Executive Committee of the WAY again stems from my lifelong commitment to serve the youth through education and holistic development, especially in this ever-changing world of YMCA. This vision has been reignited by a recent document of OECD in education. It has enlightened me that YMCA and teachers are much alike. The recent development of 'Learning Compass' with comprehensive development of core values, competencies of teachers as well as their wellness, agency and co-agency are crucial to the global goal of wellbeing in 2030 and 2040. In YMCA context, continuous holistic development applied to both the people who serve and those being served. The vigor and potency of these concepts aligned with the WAY Vision 2030, and our belief in the youth empowerment and leadership development.

Thus, with the professional training, service record and governance experience in YMCA movement, I am confident to serve on the new term of Executive Committee of WAY, bring positive impact to our youth.

PHILIPPINES

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Czieloh Jomea Villajin

Female Under 30

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

My candidacy stems from witnessing how strategic investment in youth leadership creates exponential impact across communities. From my journey as a high school YMCA contestant to now leading initiatives across national and international levels, I've seen firsthand how one empowered young person returns to their community and builds programs that weren't there before. This cascading effect - creating pathways for young people to become change agents themselves - is what drives my commitment to ensuring YMCA continues this legacy across Asia Pacific and beyond.

As Youth Trustee at YMCA of Manila, I chair Gender Equity and Youth Leadership & Development Committees, driving transformative endeavors. I led our complete rebranding, creating materials still used across all platforms - demonstrating how professional competencies directly strengthen YMCA operations.

My governance spans multiple levels: Central Board Member and Vice Chair of Training Committee at Girl Scouts of the Philippines, developing curricula for trainers nationwide; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Asia Pacific Young Woman Ambassador (2019-2022), co-leading the “Girl Scouts' Digest: Philippine Movement in Post-COVID Era” study; Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs Gender Equity Committee Member; and currently YMCA Philippines National Youth Trustee.

As Policy and Advocacy Lead at ALPAS Consultancy, I bring stakeholder management and policy analysis expertise essential for activating partnerships. I promote legislative amendments through compelling writing that transforms complex regulatory information into accessible formats, while coordinating across units such as analytics and digital to optimize campaign effectiveness. My programs ANGKLA (crisis communications) and Talakayan (political narrative democratization) earned Philippine Quill Awards, while our socialized housing campaign won a Gold Standard Award in Singapore.

My training includes World YMCA Change Agents Programme Cohort 5, M.Y Global LEAD Youth Leaders Symposium, and Green Ambassadors Training with Asia Pacific Alliance of YMCAs. I’ve also represented APAY at the YMCA Global Gathering's International Women's Day panel reaching 400+ participants.

Concrete impacts include: establishing the first YMCA Women's Basketball Tournament recruiting 88 new members, expanding gender programming impacting 200+ participants, co-leading ongoing “Kabataang Pinuno” voters' education campaign with national media appearances, and developing livelihood programs.

As one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines National Honorees, I carry the responsibility of using privilege purposefully. My work reflects a commitment to building spaces where every young person - regardless of background, gender identity, or economic circumstance - can discover their voice and power. I'm dedicated to ensuring YMCA remains not just relevant but revolutionary for today's diverse youth.

Europe

Two candidates nominated by YMCA National Movements in Europe. Two seats available for the Europe region.

3
CANDIDATES

2
SEATS AVAILABLE

SCOTLAND

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Sarah Bremner

Female

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

Rooted in the YMCA since childhood, with 17 years of volunteering across local, national and global levels, I bring both lived commitment and strategic governance experience to my candidacy for Deputy President. My lifelong connection to the Movement has shaped my values, leadership style and vision for a YMCA that is united, impact-led and forward-looking. Alongside my YMCA commitments, I work as a Primary School Teacher specialising in Additional Support for Learning. This role has sharpened my skills in team leadership, strategic planning, and inclusive practice.

The YMCA has given me opportunities that have profoundly shaped my life. I am motivated to give back through strategic leadership, building on the progress we have made in implementing Vision 2030 and helping to shape the Movement's post-2030 strategy. As Deputy President, I would work to strengthen the bonds between out local, national and international YMCA, ensuring that youth voices are purposefully valued in all levels of decision-making, especially within office bearer positions. My focus would be on fostering an inclusive governance culture that supports innovation, transparency and unity.

Locally, currently the Chairman of Dumfries YMCA (since 2023), overseeing financial planning, building strategic partnerships and ensuring a clear separation between operational and governance responsibilities. I have sat as a Trustee of local YMCAs for thirteen years and was a youth representative for 3 years prior to this. Nationally, I began on the Youth Committee before joining the Executive Committee, where I am currently Vice-Chair (since 2018) and Chairman of the International Sub-Committee (since 2022).

Internationally, I have attended YMCA Europe events, I am a World YMCA Change Agent, 1st cohort, graduate, and attended the 2014, 2018 and 2022 World Councils. My service on the World YMCA Executive Committee - including the Governance Sub-Committee - has strengthened my ability to lead strategic conversations, navigate diverse perspectives and build consensus across cultures.

Key competencies I bring include:

- Strategic Leadership - Proven ability to align local, national and global strategies, ensuring that decisions support the Movement's shared goals.
- Cross-Cultural Collaboration - Extensive experience working with colleagues from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, ensuring inclusive and respectful governance.
- Facilitation and Mentorship - Skilled at chairing committees, guiding discussions and mentoring younger leaders to ensure youth perspectives are integrated into decision-making.
- Governance Acumen - Deep knowledge of Board processes, policy development and fiduciary oversight, with the ability to balance strategic priorities with practical realities.
- Advocacy and Representation - Experienced in representing the YMCA at international events and as a spokesperson within diverse stakeholder settings.

The YMCA's mission to empower young people resonates deeply with my own values and professional work. I have seen first-hand how creating safe spaces for open dialogue, fostering community wellbeing and building opportunities for meaningful work can transform lives. My passion lies in ensuring that every young person - regardless of background - has access to these opportunities.

YMCA now has the opportunity to elect younger office bearers. At 31, I bring a younger perspective, a leader that has grown through the YMCA and gained significant governance experience at multiple levels. As Deputy President, I would champion Vision 2030 while helping to lead the process for the Movement's next strategic framework - promoting deliberate, solution-focused discussions, building strong partnerships and preparing the YMCA to thrive beyond 2030.

The YMCA has shaped who I am - as a leader, as an educator, and as an individual. If elected, I will work with the President, Executive Committee and Secretary General to strengthen governance, promote inclusion and ensure that the YMCA remains a global partner of choice. My goal is to inspire young people to step into leadership roles, ensuring the Movement's vitality for generations to come.

GERMANY

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Lena Revekka Schickhaus

Female Under 30

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

I believe our YMCA movement is needed more than ever before in our so troubled world. Young people need to be heard and civil organizations need to bring people together to thrive for peace and a meaningful future. This is why I want to contribute to the World YMCA - to help our organization to step in for a better future for any young person. I want to serve at the ExCo and use my experience from the 2022-2026 ExCo Term and as Vice chair of YMCA Berlin to speak up for the other young people in our YMCAs and find new solutions and ideas how the YMCA can become a vibrant movement ready for whatever our world needs. I want us, the World YMCA, to grow and become resilient, ready to overcome the challenges we are already facing.

Governance/board of directors leadership experience

Member of World YMCA Executive Committee since 2022, Strategy committee
Vice President of YMCA Berlin since 2019 (1-2 mio € revenue)
Member of the committee “YMCA Worldwide” in YMCA Germany
YMCA Change Agent (2017-2018)

Competencies for executive committee deliberations and advancement

- Medical studies at Charité Berlin, working as a doctor in pediatrics since 2022, experience in children´s health advocacy, global health and wellbeing
- International YMCA experience, including one year voluntary service in YMCA Perú, prepares me to bring our people together, let different voices be heard and connect diverse realities

Passion for the YMCA impact

I believe the YMCA is the best place on earth for young people to explore their purpose in life, get the motivation to change our world and find hope for the future. Once experiencing lifechanging moments and faith-filled friendships in the YMCA myself, now I enjoy serving on my local board, in our national committee for international topics and in the World YMCA ExCo. I can truly live God´s calling on my life to serve the most vulnerable people in our societies and for this I couldn´t have found a better place than the YMCA.

The beauty of people coming together from all ends of the world and having the same goal -striving for hope, purpose and future for our generation- is what amazes me most about the YMCA and what I share with the people around me.

MALTA

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Jean Paul Mifsud

Male

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

I bring a well-rounded combination of governance expertise, strategic leadership, and strong communication skills, enriched by my background in journalism.

Within the Movement, my experience with YMCA Malta—including serving as Chairperson—has equipped me with robust oversight capabilities in organisational development, financial stewardship, and stakeholder engagement. I have led through periods of growth and complexity, ensuring accountability while safeguarding the mission and values of the YMCA. My recent tenure on the Executive Committee of YMCA Europe has further strengthened my contribution at a continental level, particularly in governance, strategic alignment, and fostering collaboration across diverse national movements.

My professional experience as a journalist adds a distinctive dimension to my profile. It has shaped my ability to communicate clearly, analyse complex issues, and engage constructively with public discourse. This background enhances my capacity to support advocacy, strengthen organisational positioning, and contribute to transparent and effective communication at both national and European levels.

I also bring a solid understanding of the social challenges facing communities today, particularly in areas such as youth development, social inclusion, and homelessness. My experience working with public institutions, civil society, and funding bodies enables me to bridge operational realities with policy and advocacy considerations.

Outside the YMCA, I contribute further expertise in board governance, strategic planning, and organisational management. My ability to navigate complex environments, assess risk, and support sustainable decision-making strengthens my role as a constructive and forward-thinking board member.

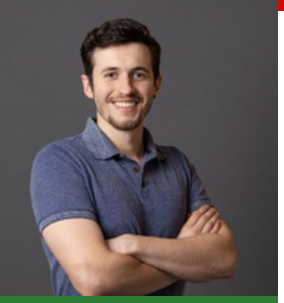
Across all my roles, I am recognised for my integrity, balanced judgement, and commitment to collaborative leadership. I bring a strategic mindset combined with practical insight, ensuring that decisions taken at the European level remain grounded, inclusive, and impactful for member movements.

Latin America & Caribbean

Two candidates from Latin America and the Caribbean. Two seats available for the Latin America & Caribbean region.

2
CANDIDATES

2
SEATS AVAILABLE



BRAZIL

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Gabriel "Tang" Stabile Lopes Da Silva

Male Under 30

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

My motivation to serve on the World YMCA Executive Committee is rooted in my belief in the YMCA's unique ability to empower young people and build inclusive communities worldwide. I believe governance means ensuring our global mission is impactful, accountable, and sustainable for future generations.

My journey with the YMCA began as a child member in 2001 and, later, as a volunteer in 2008. Growing up on the outskirts of São Paulo, the YMCA gave me a sense of belonging, identity, and leadership opportunities. Today, I serve as the President of the Youth Committee of YMCA São Paulo, Board Member of YMCA Itaquera Branch, of the corporate Board of Sao Paulo YMCA, and Chair of the Marketing Committee. My grassroots efforts include leading youth empowerment, youth employment, and community development programs. I've represented YMCA Brazil at key events like YMCA 175th Anniversary (London, 2019), World YMCA Marketing Conference (Geneva, 2023), World YMCA Accelerator Summit (Mombasa, 2024), and other events in Germany and the USA. Key awards include Youth Member of the Year (YMCA São Paulo, 2015) and Spirit of the Y (YMCA of San Diego County, 2017).

I am an Account Director at LinkedIn, the world's largest professional social network. I specialize in hiring and development solutions, strategic planning, and client success. Prior to joining LinkedIn, I worked for dunnhumby, a global leader in customer data science, providing valuable solutions in market insights and consultative leadership.

I hold degrees in both Marketing and Public Policies from the University of São Paulo, completing my thesis on opportunities for sports practice for young people in underserved areas of São Paulo. During this period, I founded a social projects division within my student athletics association and later became its President. Leading a team of more than 100 people, I coordinated sports activities, community initiatives, and large-scale events, with focus on financial planning, organizational structure, and collective impact.

My volunteer, professional, and academic experiences have strengthened my skills in governance and collaboration; competencies I am eager to bring to the World YMCA Executive Committee.

The YMCA has profoundly shaped my life, and I am committed to ensuring that other young people, particularly those from communities like mine, can find a place to grow, lead, and belong. My goal is to combine my volunteer and professional expertise with my lifelong passion to amplify youth voices and strengthen our global impact.

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

CHILE

Diego Sandoval Landabur

Male Under 30

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

My motivation to run for the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of YMCAs comes from a deep commitment to the Christian mission and to serving young people. I firmly believe that the YMCA is a transformative space where we, as young people, find opportunities to grow, discover our voice, and serve our communities. Through my involvement in the YMCA, I have learned that leadership is not about protagonism but about service, and I want to bring that conviction to the global level. My main goal is to ensure that the voice of Latin American youth is present in the strategic decisions of the World Alliance, acting as a bridge between our local realities and global challenges.

I first joined the YMCA in 2017. In 2021, I entered the YGOR program, graduating in 2022, and since that same year, I have been part of the National Commission of Youth Leaders of Chile, a space that has allowed me to engage in dialogue with young people from all over the country, strengthen youth participation, and build proposals together. Since 2024, I have been a basic member of YMCA Valparaíso, Secretary of the Y's Men's Club YMCA Valparaíso, and Coordinator of the Mission Council of YMCA Valparaíso, where I have taken on responsibilities in organization, accompaniment, and coordination of activities. These roles have given me experience in youth governance, strategic planning, and working in committees that bring together diverse realities and perspectives.

I bring skills in leadership, effective communication, soft skills, and teamwork, acquired through volunteering and the coordination of community activities. I have developed competencies in planning, event organization, group facilitation, and building consensus in diverse contexts. My formation in Christian spaces of mission and service has given me a strong orientation toward social justice, inclusion, and community care. I am convinced that these competencies will allow me to contribute meaningfully to the decisions of the Executive Committee, ensuring that Vision 2030 is translated into concrete and transformative actions in Latin America and around the world.

The YMCA has profoundly shaped my life, not only as a place of encounter but also as a space that inspires me to serve and to live my faith in action. I have seen how this movement changes lives, especially for young people who find here hope and community. Representing Latin America on the Executive Committee would be for me both an honor and a responsibility, which I accept with humility and conviction, ready to serve and to learn in this process.

USA

One candidate nominated by Y-USA. One seat is allocated to the USA.

1	1
CANDIDATE	SEAT AVAILABLE

USA

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Cecilia Rojas

Female

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

I am honored to submit my nomination for continued service on the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of YMCAs. My lifelong journey with the YMCA began as a child in my neighborhood Y, where I first learned the fundamentals of volleyball and basketball. That early experience gave me a foundation of community, wellness, and belonging—values that have shaped my life and leadership. Over the years, the YMCA has been both a place of service and a source of strength, most profoundly during my battle with cancer, when I found encouragement and solidarity among survivors and fellow fighters within the Y community.

For more than two decades, I have been privileged to serve the YMCA at every level of governance. Locally, I spent 12 years on the board of the YMCA of Greater Kansas City, including service as Chair. At the national level, I served nine years on the Board of the YMCA of the USA, culminating as Immediate Past Chair. Globally, I currently serve as Treasurer and Executive Committee member of the World YMCA. In addition, I was the first leader of diversity committees both locally and nationally, advancing the Y's commitment to equity and inclusion. These roles have given me firsthand experience in policy governance across organizations of significant size and complexity, including YMCA of the USA, which has an annual operating budget exceeding $1 billion and serves thousands of local associations across the country.

Beyond governance, my professional background equips me with competencies valuable to the Executive Committee. As Co-Owner of Tico Productions/Tico Sports, a bilingual multimedia company, I bring expertise in media, communications, marketing, and community engagement. I also serve on multiple corporate and nonprofit boards, where I have overseen finance, audit, and governance committees. These experiences have sharpened my skills in fiscal management, strategic planning, and organizational leadership—skills directly aligned with the requirements of serving the World Alliance.

My motivation to continue serving stems from a deep belief in the YMCA's transformative power. I have witnessed the Y's impact in local neighborhoods across the U.S. and in communities around the world. I want to help strengthen our global movement by ensuring sustainability, expanding diversity and inclusion, and equipping the next generation of leaders.

The YMCA changed my life as a child, supported me in adulthood, and continues to inspire me to serve. It is my passion to give back by advancing our shared mission of empowering young people and building stronger, more inclusive communities worldwide.

Canada

One candidate nominated by Y-Canada. One seat is allocated for Canada.

1
CANDIDATE

1
SEAT AVAILABLE

CANADA

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mary Kathryn Beck

Female

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

My YMCA journey began with a need to find safe, affordable childcare. Once our family found the YMCA in Vancouver, we never worried about our child's safety. Our child thrived – and I felt compelled to give back.

After several years spent fundraising for YMCA childcare, I joined the Board of the YMCA of Greater Vancouver (now YMCA BC), marking the start of my governance journey about 25 years ago. I was welcomed, respected and made to feel I belonged. Over time, I developed into a passionate governance leader committed to linking strong governance with organizational sustainability.

I bring a legal perspective to the Board table, gained from being a member of the Law Society of British Columbia. My professional legal focus on securities regulation – primarily at an independent BC-based investment firm – also gave me financial and investment acumen. Additionally, I bring an ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate directors (ICD.D), a professional governance training program in Canada.

My YMCA leadership has included serving as a board member, committee member, committee chair and ultimately as Board Chair of YMCA Greater Vancouver, YMCA Greater Vancouver Foundation and the YMCA Canada National Board.

These roles have involved strategic planning, CEO succession, strategic asset development, and governance excellence. Above all, they have focused on building welcoming communities, unlocking people's potential, and ensuring access for all. Be it at the local, national or global level, the YMCA inspires. The YMCA changes lives and that is what creates an ongoing passion in me for the organization.

Volunteering with the YMCA has been a gift. Today, this continues as a coach for YMCA Canada's Good Governance Project. Volunteering is truly a gift received; not given. The connection I feel – to the mission, people we serve, and those who work and volunteer – is profound. It is what motivates me to continue to be a YMCA volunteer and inspires me to contribute to World YMCA.

I'm especially interested in supporting the development of World YMCA's next strategic framework. Having participated in the Vision 2030 process, I see this next step as vital to sustaining and advancing the movement globally. I bring decades of YMCA leadership, a collaborative spirit, and a willingness to mentor.

It is an exciting time. Simply put, the world needs more YMCA.

Middle East

One candidate nominated by the Middle East region. One seat is allocated to the Middle East.

1
CANDIDATE

1
SEAT AVAILABLE

EAST JERUSALEM

CANDIDATE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Maurine Kouba

Female

Video statement

BIOGRAPHY

Maurine Kouba is a young cultural enthusiast and currently serves as the Head of the Youth and Children Division within the Culture Development Department at the Municipality of Ramallah. She also served as the Executive Director of Yabous Cultural Centre in Jerusalem, one of Palestine's leading cultural institutions from 2023 until 2025. Maurine holds a Master's degree in Business Communication from the University of Siena in Italy and a Bachelor's degree in Finance, Banking and Business from Birzeit University. She has extensive experience in women's and youth-focused projects, both professionally and through her personal initiatives.

Over the past decade, Maurine has been actively engaged in the cultural and artistic field, volunteering at numerous festivals and events with Yabous and other organizations. This long-term involvement has shaped her deep belief in the power of art and culture as tools for storytelling, community revival, and the preservation of identity and heritage.

Beyond her professional work, Maurine is a committed youth leader and activist. She serves as an executive committee member at the World Council of YMCAs (2022 - 2026) representing the Middle East, and as a board member at the East Jerusalem YMCA. Her journey with the YMCA spans more than ten years of volunteer leadership, though she often says it began in early childhood, accompanying her family to local YMCA activities — forming a lifelong bond with the movement. She strongly believes in the potential of young leaders to shape the future and amplify the voices of their communities.

Election Process

Article VII Executive Committee & Important Notes

ELECTION PROCESS

ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Composition

1.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of 21 to 23 Members comprised in the following manner:

1.1.1 The Officers of the World Alliance elected by the World Council, each representing different geographic regions.

1.1.2 Eleven individuals elected by the World Council from different geographic regions, with a minimum of four being 30 years of age or under when elected, and a maximum of seven members from a gender.

1.1.3 Presidents of Area Organisations recognised by the World Council.

1.1.4 The Executive Committee may co-opt:

– up to two external members according to the competencies required for the Executive Committee, without a right to vote.

– and co-optees as stated in Article VII 1.6 if required.

1.1.5 The Secretary General of the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

1.1.6 Immediate Past President of the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

1.1.7 Y's Men International Liaison to the World Alliance, with no power to vote.

World YMCA By-Laws, Section 7

The Executive Committee shall determine the representation from the geographical regions for the next Executive Committee.

Africa 2 Asia 2 Europe 2 Latin America 2 Middle East 1 USA 1 Canada 1 Total 11

The Executive Committee shall consist of 21 to 23 Members, comprising 3 Officers, 11 elected Members, 4 Area Presidents, 1 to 2 External Members (optional), Secretary General, Immediate Past President and Y's Men International Liaison.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Possible changes to the terms of office of the 11 members of the Executive Committee.

The World YMCA Movement is currently consulting on possible constitutional amendments. These amendments, if approved at the 2026 World Council, would introduce a staggered election process from 2028 to reduce the risk of loss of knowledge of the organisation. If adopted, 50% of the members of the Executive Committee (with the exception of the officers) will be elected every two years. Therefore, exceptionally, 50% of the members of the Executive Committee elected at the 2026 World Council may have to end their term of office in 2028 before having completed a full four-year term; the mechanism for selecting these members remains to be determined. Candidates should take this potential change into account when deciding on their nomination.

Roles & Responsibilities

General responsibilities of the Executive Committee of the World YMCA

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD YMCA

This guide provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee, including the President, Deputy President, Treasurer, and all Executive Committee members. As leaders within the movement, they play a crucial role in governance, representation, and strategic oversight. We encourage the National Movements to review this document carefully and consider nominating strong candidates who meet the qualifications for these key positions.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD YMCA

SET ORGANISATIONAL DIRECTION:

1. Determine, monitor and advocate for the Mission and Purpose of World YMCA.

2. Actively participate in the overall World YMCA strategic planning effort and assist to monitor the implementation progress via annual business plans.

3. Carry out any policy and specific instructions of the World Council.

4. Ensure that the organisation has the leadership to achieve the Strategic Plan objectives.

5. Select the Secretary General as needed.

ENSURE NECESSARY ORGANISATIONAL RESOURCES:

1. Protect the organisation's assets and provide proper financial adequacy, oversight and controls through multi-year and annual budgeting and financial planning, to fulfil World YMCA's mission.

2. Determine and oversee that purposeful fundraising programs are in place including their related budget impact.

3. Identify potential philanthropic prospects and partners.

4. Undertake such actions and responsibilities as deemed necessary for the good governance of World YMCA:

– Continually improve the Executive Committee's governance knowledge.
– Regularly evaluate the Executive Committee and its individual member contributions.
– Identify, cultivate, and recruit potential new Executive Committee Members.

5. Enhance the organisation's public standing by acting as a spokesperson for the organisation when required.

6. Advocate for the organisation's mission, accomplishments, and goals.

7. Undertake the planning and orientation of World Council meetings.

PROVIDE ORGANISATIONAL OVERSIGHT

1. Ensure legal, ethical and cultural integrity through organisational policies and compliance programs.

2. Articulate, safeguard, model, and promote YMCA organisational values.

3. Support the Secretary General by providing important and relevant moral and professional input based on YMCA and professional leadership experiences.

4. Annually evaluate the Secretary General's performance based on mutually agreed objectives aligned with the strategic plan.

5. Be aware that competitive and industry-comparable compensation (salary, benefit, and incentive), and relevant personnel policies are documented, fairly administered for all Staff, and reflect the values and diversity of the YMCA.

SNAPSHOT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP ROLES

Each member of the Executive Committee holds a distinct leadership role that contributes to the effective governance of the World YMCA. These roles include:

- Executive Committee Members: Provide governance oversight, contribute to strategic decision-making, and serve on committees.
- President: Leads the Executive Committee, oversees governance, represents Executive Committee, and works closely with the Secretary General.
- Deputy President: Supports the President, ensures continuity of leadership, and may assume additional responsibilities as needed.
- Treasurer: Provides financial oversight, ensures fiscal accountability, and advises on budgetary matters.

The President

Responsibilities, Obligations and Skills

RESPONSIBILITIES, OBLIGATIONS AND SKILLS OF THE PRESIDENT

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY:

The President is the leader of the Executive Committee of the World YMCA. The President is responsible for:

1. Ensuring the integrity and effectiveness of the Executive Committee's governance role and processes, including supporting, championing the advancement of, and embedding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) into governance processes.

2. Presiding at meetings of Executive Committee.

3. Attending all Officer, Executive Committee and relevant sub-committee meetings as ex-officio.

4. Leading an Executive Committee culture of preparedness, inquiry, transparency, inclusion, trust, engagement, generative discussion, risk management and ethics, confidentiality and celebration.

5. Representing Executive Committee within the Movement and the Movement stakeholders.

6. Maintaining effective relationships with the Secretary General, Executive Committee Members, and Stakeholders.

7. Modelling and inspiring the Executive Committee to achieve governance excellence.

8. Recommending Committee and sub-committee Chairs and Vice Chairs as well as who will serve on these committees for Executive Committee approval.

9. Ensuring the sub-committee structure supports the work of the Executive Committee.

10. Leading and facilitating the Secretary General Search Committee.

11. Serving as a member of the JR Mott Foundation.

12. In partnership with the Secretary General, ensuring that effective strategic planning is developed and monitored on a regular basis and that Executive Committee resolutions are carried out.

GENERAL DUTIES:

The President's role includes all the responsibilities and duties of an individual Executive Committee Member plus these specific responsibilities and duties.

The President will:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE

1. Ensure that the Executive Committee performs a governance role that respects and understands the role of management.

2. Ensure that the Executive Committee adopts an annual work plan that is consistent with Executive Committee's strategic directions, mission, and vision.

3. Ensure that the work of committees is aligned with the Executive Committee's role and annual work plan and that the Board respects and understands the role of committees and does not duplicate committee work.

4. Strengthening Executive Committee effectiveness by ensuring training of members through the relevant committees and that there are processes to develop the skills and competencies required for effective governance.

5. Ensuring that the Elections Committee receives timely criteria for the Executive Committee Member nomination process to encourage candidates who bring relevant experience and needed skills and competencies to the table for the following term.

6. Overseeing Executive Committee's evaluation processes and providing constructive feedback to individual committee chairs and Members as required, ensuring that the governance structures and processes are reviewed, evaluated, and revised from time to time.

7. Conducting the review of the Secretary General's annual performance with the Personnel Committee, as compared to mutually established annual goals, objectives, and Key Performance Indicators. Subsequently, shares the process with the Executive Committee.

8. Ensuring that competitive and industry-comparable compensation (salary, benefit, and incentive), as well relevant personnel policies are documented, fairly administered for all Staff, and reflect the values and diversity of the YMCA.

9. Ensure the organisation's assets and brand are protected.

10. Signs documents, approve transactions in accordance with policies and delegated authority.

11. Ensuring that appropriate and fair expense reimbursement and subsidy policies and procedures are in place.

12. Chairs the Personnel Committee.

PRESIDING OFFICER

The President is the presiding officer at Executive Committee meetings & World Councils and is responsible for:

1. Setting the agenda with the Secretary General for Executive Committee meetings and ensuring matters are appropriate and reflect Executive Committee's role.

2. Ensuring that meetings are conducted according to applicable Swiss legislation, the WAY constitution and by-laws, and Executive Committee's governance policies as well as ensuring that supporting materials are distributed to the members in good time.

3. Facilitating and forwarding the business of Executive Committee, including preserving order at Executive Committee meetings.

4. Encouraging input and ensuring that the Executive Committee hears all sides of a debate or discussion.

5. Encouraging all members to participate and facilitating consensus where possible.

6. Ruling on procedural matters during meetings.

REPRESENTATION

With respect to representation, the President:

1. Is the official spokesperson for Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Secretary General.

2. In consultation with the Secretary General, represents the Executive Committee within the movement and to the stakeholders as appropriate, attending and participating in events as required.

3. Reports on behalf of Executive Committee at World Council.

4. Maintains knowledge of the YMCA organization and personal commitment to its vision, goals and objectives.

RELATIONSHIPS

The President:

1. Has a key relationship with the Secretary General that is built on mutual trust and respect, especially regarding emerging issues or potential problems advice and counsel as required.

2. Shares a common understanding with the Secretary General of the organisation's strategic goals and works together to achieve the World YMCA's objectives.

3. Facilitates relationship with, and communication among, members and between members and management.

4. Establishes a relationship with individual members, meeting with each member at least once a year to ensure that special skills and expertise are effectively utilised.

5. Provide assistance and advice to ensure committee chairs understand Executive Committee expectations and have the resources that are required for performance of their terms of reference.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

The President will possess the following qualities, skills, and experience:

1. Proven leadership skills.

2. Demonstrated governance and Board level experience in the sector at international level.

3. Outstanding record of achievement in one or several areas of skills and leadership experience.

4. Good strategic and facilitation skills, ability to influence and achieve consensus.

5. Ability to act impartially and without bias and display tact and diplomacy.

6. An understating of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and its principles as they related to governance and decision making.

7. Effective communicator.

8. Political acuity.

9. Must have the time to continue the legacy of building strong relationships between the organisation and stakeholders.

10. Ability to establish trusted advisor relationships with the Secretary General and other members.

OTHER:

Carry out additional duties as assigned by the Executive Committee.

TERM:

The President shall serve under the terms outlined in the constitution.

The Deputy President

Responsibilities, Obligations and Skills

RESPONSIBILITIES, OBLIGATIONS AND SKILLS OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Understands the responsibilities of the World YMCA Executive Committee.

2. Models and inspires the Executive Committee to achieve governance excellence.

3. Understands the responsibilities, duties and protocols of the President and be able to perform these duties if required.

GENERAL DUTIES:

The Deputy President's role includes all the responsibilities and duties of an individual Executive Committee Member plus these specific responsibilities and duties. The Deputy President will:

1. Support and carries out assignments and duties as requested by the President with particular attention to the organisation's most important strategies.

2. Participate as a vital part of the Executive Committee leadership.

3. Attend all Officer, Executive Committee, and assigned sub-committee meetings.

4. Serve as a member of the JR Mott Foundation.

5. Serve as a member of the Personnel Committee.

6. Enhance World YMCA's public standing and brand by acting as an alternate spokesperson as assigned and advocate for its mission, accomplishments, and goals.

7. Assist the President to formally evaluate Executive Committee meetings to continuously improve engagement and results.

8. Assist the President to consult with and evaluate Executive Committee members on their individual role and engagement.

9. Assist the President to lead an Executive Committee culture of preparedness, inquiry, transparency, inclusion, trust, engagement, generative discussion, risk management and ethics, confidentiality, and celebration.

10. Coach and mentor Executive Committee members. Ensure that our youth members are included, developed, and respected for their valuable perspectives.

11. Maintains knowledge of the YMCA organisation and personal commitment to its vision, goals and objectives.

12. Act as a substitute for the President when necessary and to be a conduit for any issues that the board or the stakeholders have with the President.

13. Act as a liaison for the Y's Men International/ partner organisation on behalf of the World YMCA.

14. Performs such other duties e.g. lead ad hoc committees /task forces, from time to time determined by the President and the Executive Committee.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

The Deputy President will have the following qualities, skills, and experience:

1. Demonstrated leadership and strategic skills.

2. Governance and Board level experiences in the sector at international level.

3. An effective communicator and collaborator.

4. Committed to the World YMCA mission and vision and a strong understanding of the organisation's goals and objectives is essential.

TERM:

The Deputy President shall serve under the terms outlined in the Constitution.

The Treasurer

Responsibilities, Obligations and Skills

RESPONSIBILITIES, OBLIGATIONS AND SKILLS OF THE TREASURER

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Understands the responsibilities of the World YMCA Executive Committee and the Finance Committee.

2. Monitors financial policies and procedures, as well as World YMCAs financial performance.

3. Manages the Executive Committee's review of and action related to the Executive Committee's financial responsibilities.

4. Provides financial insights and recommendations to support strategic decision making and ensures alignment between financial goals and organizational objectives.

5. Serves as a member of the JR Mott Foundation.

6. Is the lead board member on the assurance of the financial security of the organisation.

GENERAL DUTIES:

The Treasurer's role includes all the responsibilities and duties of an individual Executive Committee Member plus these specific responsibilities and duties.

The Treasurer:

1. Participates as a vital part of the Executive Committee leadership.

2. Models and inspires the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee to achieve governance excellence.

3. Serves on the Personnel Committee.

4. Serves as the financial officer for World YMCA and is the Chair of the Finance Committee and convenes meetings as necessary to oversee the financial health and stability of the World YMCA.

5. Manages, with the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee's review of and action related to the board's financial responsibilities.

6. Serves as an organisation member of the Investment Committee, facilitating prudent investment practices to cash flow requirements for the World YMCA.

7. Serves as a Member of the JR Mott Foundation.

8. Works with the Secretary General and the Director of Finance and Administration to ensure that appropriate financial reports are made available to the Executive Committee on a timely basis.

9. Works with the Secretary General and the Director of Finance and Administration to ensure maintenance and development of appropriate financial and investment policies.

10. Together with senior leadership, presents the annual budget to the Executive Committee for discussion and approval.

11. Presents the audited financial statement to the Executive Committee for approval on an annual basis and considers any recommendations from the external auditors and recommends any required actions.

12. With the Finance Committee identifies and manages financial risks and develops strategies to mitigate these risks.

13. Together with senior leadership and other Committees coordinates the development of the World YMCA Risk Registry.

14. Assists the President to create an Executive Committee and Finance Committee culture of preparedness, inquiry, transparency, inclusion, trust, engagement, generative discussion, risk management and ethics, confidentiality, and celebration.

15. Acts as one of the signing officers for legal and financial purposes.

16. Collaborates with resource mobilisation efforts to enhance World YMCA financial sustainability.

17. Assists and advises on resource mobilisation to ensure appropriate operational revenue for the organisation.

18. Maintains knowledge of the YMCA organisation and personal commitment to its vision, goals and objectives.

OTHER DUTIES:

Performs such other duties as may from time to time be determined by the President and the Executive Committee.

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

The treasurer plays a critical role in managing the World YMCA financial affairs and will have the following qualities, skills, and experience:

1. Is required to have experience of and understand financial accounting, finance and audit for non-profit organisations, and general investment knowledge. Specialised education, experience and appropriate proficiency certification is preferred.

2. An understanding of finance and audit in non-profit organisations and should have a basic understanding of Swiss legal and regulatory requirements.

3. General investment management knowledge.

4. Integrity and trustworthiness are paramount, and the Treasurer must handle financial matters ethically and transparently.

5. Ability to analyse financial data, identify trends, assessing financial risks, and recommend course of actions.

6. Is required to have financial leadership expertise in interpreting financial statements and principles and accounting practices.

7. Governance and Board level experience in the sector at international level.

8. An effective collaborator with strong communication skills, able to translate complex financials for Executive Committee as a whole.

9. Committed to the World YMCA mission and vision and a strong understanding of the organization's goals and objectives is essential for making sound financial decisions that support the mission and vision.

TERM:

The Treasurer shall serve under the terms outlined in the Constitution.

All Executive Committee members

Responsibilities, obligations, skills and qualifications

RESPONSIBILITIES, OBLIGATIONS AND SKILLS OF ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD YMCA

STRATEGY:

Each of the members will:

1. Actively participate in the development of the World YMCA's mission, vision and current strategic priorities, including:

– i. Youth Empowerment

– ii. Collective Impact on Vision 2030

– iii. Movement Strengthening and Sustainability

2. Keep up to date on global, regional, national and local developments occurring in and/or impacting the YMCA.

MEETINGS

1. Attend Executive Committee meetings in person once or twice a year. These meetings typically require several days of attendance plus travel to the international location.

2. Commit to virtual meetings and completing tasks remotely, ensuring access to reliable internet and adequate computer equipment. Given the global nature of the work, virtual meetings may be scheduled at various times to accommodate different time zones.

3. Join at least one standing committee. The Executive Committee establishes these to carry out its duties and responsibilities. The committees might cover finance, resource mobilization, strategy, governance, and movement support topics. It is hoped that candidates standing for election will have an interest and skill set in these areas.

4. Ensure sufficient time to properly prepare for and attend all in-person and virtual meetings of the Executive Committee and assigned sub-committee(s). Meeting attendance is recorded and reported to National Movements annually.

5. Participate, engage and contribute whilst having the ability to actively listen, analyse and think clearly and creatively. Be willing to ask questions and be constructively engaged on each issue, to take responsibility and to follow through on given assignments.

6. Work well individually and within a team of people.

7. Offer YMCA experience, professional skills and leadership experience to the benefit of World YMCA. At the same time, be willing to develop new skills and knowledge in areas of work less familiar.

GOVERNANCE

Members will:

1. Understand the responsibilities of the World YMCA Executive Committee as a collective body and its accountability to National Movement Members.

2. Understand and comply with the Governance and organisational documents of World YMCA.

3. Agree to participate in continuous improvement surveys regarding the on-going performance of the Executive Committee as a whole and on an individual basis.

4. Agree to maintain confidentiality where required.

GENERAL

1. Agree to participate in fundraising activities as directed by the President.
2. Safeguard, model and promote World YMCA organisational values and brand.
3. Maintain sensitivity and acceptance of different views and primary languages; a friendly, responsive and patient approach; honesty; community building skills; personal integrity; a sense of developed values.
4. Possess basic working knowledge of both written and spoken English.
5. Adhere to Christian values and commitment of the YMCA.

SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Governance Acumen.
2. Experience in Committee and/or Governance work, ideally at an international (two or more countries) level.
3. Willingness to be a continuous learner to expand upon governance knowledge.
4. Professional background in relevant areas such as marketing, branding, accounting, resource mobilisation, law, AI, Information Technology, engineering, healthcare and wellness, childcare, and youth development.

World YMCA Executive Committee meets in New Delhi, India, in April 2025

WORLD YMCA

World YMCA
Chemin de Mouille-Galand 1
1214 Vernier
Geneva – Switzerland
office@ymca.int