

Exploring Christian identity, expression and narrative in the 21st Century global YMCA Movement - towards a unifying position

Geneva, 27 September 2022

World YMCA seeks two people aged under 30 to join its global Steering Committee to pilot a ‘safe space’ consultation process across our global YMCA Movement, in which as many people as possible can talk and journey together towards a form of shared understanding.

We are a diverse ‘Rainbow’ movement anchored on our Christian origin and legacy, and embracing all. We are now exploring how best we should articulate our Christian past, present and especially our future as an organization whose role has evolved to serve people of any faith or not faith.

We have started the process with a Steering Committee currently numbering 13 people, which broadly reflects geography, gender, and ‘Christian’ and ‘secular’ viewpoints, though we do not mean to create any artificial barrier of polarisation between the two. We also fully recognise the complexity and diversity within the very words ‘Christian’ and ‘secular’.

However, the Steering Committee does not yet sufficiently reflect the ‘youth voice’ which is central to our YMCA Movement.

We invite expressions of interest from young people who would like to join the Steering Committee. Candidates should briefly (250-500 words) introduce who they are, their motivation for joining the group, and what they believe could be their unique contribution. We warmly welcome all opinions - ‘Christian’ and ‘secular’, and any combination. **Expressions of interest should be sent to safespace@ymca.int, by 10 October 2022 please.**

Over a period of 12 months, the commitment would be to attend monthly Steering Committee Zoom meetings of 60-90 minutes, as well as one and possibly two 3-day face face-to-face meetings (likely early February 2023, and August/September), for which travel and subsistence support could be available if needed. There may be some small amount of work in between these formal meetings, as directed by the Committee. The Committee’s key role is to prepare the first round of Movement-wide consultation, and then to react to it with a draft Declaration with which to launch a second round of consultation.

Thank you!