



**MAURINE KOUBA**  
YMCA East Jerusalem

30 years of age or under on 4 July 2022? Yes

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Maurine is a longtime volunteer at the East Jerusalem YMCA and works closely with youth groups. She is a member of the general assembly of the EJ-YMCA and participated as a Change Agent in 2018. Kouba has also volunteered in different projects in the youth and women's programs throughout the years.

Kouba is a Business Communication Master graduate from the University of Siena in Italy and holds a Bachelor's degree in Finance and Banking and Business Administration from Birzeit University in Palestine.

Currently, she is a project coordinator at the YWCA of Jerusalem in the women's and youth development programs. Maurine led Gender-Based Violence, women and youth empowerment projects through capacity building training and community action as well as leading advocacy campaigns. Being a member of the YWCA, a sister organization, gives her another dimension of understanding the work that YMCA is doing.

Throughout her experience with the YMCA, Maurine discovered her passion in working towards creating change in her community. Maurine believes that the YMCA with its mission and Christian values, is a safe space for enhancing the capacities of those that share these values, and is the home where youth can raise their voices in which opportunities manifest for creative solutions for the problems that they and many others face.

Maurine also learnt how to interact with the different groups she worked with, which gave her the sense of leadership, especially with sharing decisions and solutions. In turn, it had a good impact where she was a key person to initiate the very vibrant youth hub in EJ YMCA, Ramallah. Being a YMCA person with the basic slogan "Once a YMCA person, forever a YMCA person" gives Maurine the eagerness to look for more involvement and on higher levels, where she believes, by representing the Middle East in the Executive Committee, she can share their vision with her fellow members and enhance their work in the global movement.

Coming from East Jerusalem gives Maurine another perspective to understand working with marginalized communities. On the other hand, with her Bachelors and Masters degree, Maurine feels she can be useful in this coming Executive Committee and will look forward to being a member in the different committees, especially the Finance Committee.

Our voices are not only a fundamental part of the YMCA movement, but are also the building blocks for transformational change in our societies in our time and beyond.

