

Resolution on Refugees and Migrants

As the world's largest youth organization, YMCA considers migration one of the main challenges for young people in the years to come. Conflicts, war, climate change and lack of perspectives are leading young people to search for a safe space to live – and this may not be the place where they were born.

Having seen the worldwide migration in the last years, there are even larger scales of migration to be expected in the future. These perspectives are asking for response by the YMCA on different levels.

Standing in a long tradition in working for peace and justice by empowering young people, the worldwide YMCA movement is active on the local, regional, national and international level to create safe spaces and living perspectives for young people.

The 19th YMCA World Council declares:

Recognizing migration as one of the main challenges for young people today, the World Council appreciates and strengthens the work for safe spaces, peace and justice within the worldwide YMCA movement.

With regard to the huge challenges the whole world is facing, the 19th YMCA World Council thankfully acknowledges the huge efforts that have already been undertaken at all levels of the worldwide YMCA movement. At the same time, it recognises that the world is undergoing tremendous changes in every aspect of life and especially with regard to the situation of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons. Therefore, it needs to be assessed if existing efforts still tackle these challenges in the best possible way and if new measures need to be implemented additionally.

The 19th World Council decides to

call on the World Alliance of YMCAs (WAY), the Area Organizations, the National Movements and the local YMCAs

- to join forces in both enhancing existing programmes as well as developing new programmes for and with migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons to foster their integration and wellbeing in different countries, societies and local communities,
- to stimulate WAY and Area Organizations – together with national and local organizations – to continue development and implementation of project proposals assisting migrants and refugees to be delivered by YMCAs on all levels,
- to strengthen advocacy on the issues expressed in this resolution.

These goals may be achieved in different ways. They may include, but are not limited to:

- Creating platforms in order to provide mutual consultation and enable wider co-operation, sharing of experiences and developing of new initiatives within the worldwide YMCA movement. These platform(s) should link all areas and respective national movements and should be substantially supported by WAY. Additional experts might be nominated as well.
- WAY providing regular status reports on the topic.
- WAY representation of the YMCA movement in multi-national institutions.
- Coordination of YMCA positions with respect to the topic by WAY.
- WAY acting as publicly recognised opinion leader.
- Fundraising among multi-national organisations for gaining funds to support the initiatives taken on different levels.

YMCA Germany, YMCA Italy, YMCA Spain, YMCA Canada, YMCA Sierra Leone, YMCA Scotland, YMCA Zimbabwe, YMCA Argentina, YMCA Denmark, YMCA Norway, YMCA Korea, YMCA of the USA, YMCA Togo, YMCA Senegal, YMCA Gambia (others may follow)

13th July, 2018
Chiang Mai, Thailand