



2023 Call for Members

Liberian Youth Voices for Accelerating the ICPD (L-YV-4-ICPD)

Background

The Liberian Youth Voices for Accelerating the ICPD (L-YV-4-ICPD) is a platform of formal and informal adolescent and youth-led networks and organizations seeking to transform policies, strategies, approaches, and programmatic responses to work with and for young people through youth-led action, advocacy, and accountability on SRHR and bodily autonomy. The L-YV-4-ICPD will advance the relevant national, regional, and international processes and outcomes led by, involving, and/or targeting young people. This includes the revised national Public Health Law, the revised National Youth Policy, periodic reviews of Liberia's Commitments for Adolescent and Youth Wellbeing in the SDGs, Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development, national Family Planning 2030 commitments, national ICPD@25 Commitments, the Bali Global Youth Forum Declaration, the Lisboa+21 Declaration on Youth Policies & Programmes, the Compact for Engaging Young People in Humanitarian Action, the Youth 2030: UN Youth Strategy, amongst others.

The five key actions that drive members of the L-YV-4-ICPD long-term commitment to young people include the following:

- Action 1: Ensure the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all young people are respected, guaranteed, and promoted, including the right to safe, legal, affordable, and accessible abortion care services within the confines of the law, irrespective of age, and that young people have access to evidence-based SRHR information and education, as well as affordable youth-friendly SRH services including emergency contraception and sexuality education.
- Action 2: Prioritize adolescents' health and well-being, eliminate all legal and structural barriers preventing them from accessing comprehensive and affordable care, and provide an appropriately tailored package of adolescent-responsive knowledge and services addressing their SRHR, including sexuality education, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacity, that is mutually reinforcing, evidence-based, and free of stigma and discrimination, with particular attention to younger adolescents who are often left behind.
- Action 3: Ban all harmful practices against girls and young key populations, including non-consensual, unethical, and medically unnecessary practices, and create legal protections for girls and young key populations from violence and discrimination.
- Action 4: Provide sustained, flexible, and multi-year funding to adolescent and youth-led organizations, increase funding for adolescent and youth-led initiatives, and invest the necessary time and financial resources to strengthen the capacity of adolescent and youth advocates that are leading the change at local, national, regional, and global levels to advocate for their SRHR and realize the ICPD PoA, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the 2030 Agenda.

- Action 5: Develop strong youth-led accountability mechanisms, that are youth-initiated, managed, and monitored and promote the responsive and meaningful engagement of all young people in the process of accessing information, negotiating, designing, implementing, and evaluating initiatives, including early adolescents who require additional precautions to secure their meaningful engagement and ensure their safety.

The L-YV-4-ICPD is excited to open its 2023 call for members

We are looking for informal and formal adolescent and youth-led networks and organizations based in Liberia to become members of the L-YV-4-ICPD and to nominate two adolescent/youth representatives to serve as focal points. We are looking for networks/organizations that are passionate about the five key actions of the L-YV-4-ICPD, and subscribe to our principles: i) professionalism, ii) embracing diversity, inclusivity, and cultural differences, iii) upholding human rights and respect gender equality & equity, iv) confidentiality, v) collaboration and teamwork, vi) zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment, vii) conflict resolution, viii) active participation and commitment, ix) ethics and integrity, x) responsibility and accountability, and xi) adherence to guidance on using UN visibility and branding.

The L-YV-4-ICPD relies on active volunteer membership of the designated focal points, and modest stipends will be provided to the two representatives to facilitate their active participation. The work of the L-YV-4-ICPD will be done virtually through email, WhatsApp, zoom meetings, and frequent in-person meetings arranged by a steering committee and UNFPA. The ability to make the necessary time commitment and to be available to lead the work of the L-YV-4-ICPD is key, and we look for members who are ready to meaningfully contribute a minimum of 5-10 hours per week, which includes responding to WhatsApp messages, emails, organizing and taking part in planned activities, among others. We are looking for organizations that represent diverse and underrepresented populations and constituencies, and welcome organizations with varying skills, experiences, and levels of formality.

Selection criteria for the L-YV-4-ICPD:

- Liberian organizations or networks with a strategic plan and/or advocacy agenda and/or passion and thematic focus for SRHR
 - Comprehensive Sexuality Education
 - Rights of key populations (LGBTQI+)
 - GBV prevention and response
 - Elimination of harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation
 - Climate change and its intersections with SRHR
 - Disability rights and justice
 - Rights of At-Risk Youth and advocacy against substance abuse
- Diverse youth representatives nominated from formal or informal adolescent/youth-led organizations/networks (2 per entity)

- Nominated representative should be between the ages of 10-35 years, with a preference for young people ages 10-24 years;
- Young people with an identified track record of leadership
- Young people with basic IT skills
- Able to serve on a voluntary basis, stipends will be provided for general members as well as steering committee members
- Available to serve for a one-year term, with the possibility of renewal (November 2023 – November 2024)
- Commitment and eagerness to lead and engage in different aspects of the work

To ensure inclusion, we welcome representatives of formal or informal adolescent/youth-led organizations based in Liberia that are diverse as per the following characteristics:

- Representation of young key populations (LGBTQI)
- Ability/Disability Diversity
- Refugee representation
- Geographic diversity (representation across all counties)
- Legislative youth organizations

If you are interested in your organization becoming a member of the L-YV-4-ICPD kindly apply as per the following steps:

- Submit a completed application package via email to lyv4icpd@unfpa.org with the subject line **LYV4ICPD Application Package** by Monday, November 13th 2023, 11:59 pm Liberia time. The application package should include the following:
 - Organization Profile
 - A detailed list of members of the organization, including names, age, gender, and title
 - Organizational letter/statement of interest
 - Organizational recommendation letter for the nominated two focal persons
 - Biography of the two nominated focal points

If you have any questions about the L-YV-4-ICPD or the application process, feel free to contact lyv4icpd@unfpa.org