




# YWCA World Service Council

## Annual Report for 2020

1920  2020

YWCA WORLD  
SERVICE COUNCIL

Centennial Celebration

**YWCA World Service Council Report**  
**Annual Report**  
**July 2019 through October 2020**

Introduction

This Annual Report will be covering a 16-month period, July 2019 through October 2020. We are trying to put into place an “annual report year” that fits our organization’s “natural rhythm” related to the giving cycles of our members and the decision-making cycles for grants to be made each year. In the last report to you, our members, we reported on a nine-month period that corresponded to the change of the YWCA of the USA financial year (September through June).

During the past 16 months, we have been planning for a Centennial celebration that was then affected by a pandemic affecting everything. We planned for a special celebration in 2020 of the 100 years that the World Service Council has been in existence, scheduled for October 2020 of that year. The world pandemic made it necessary to cancel the in-person event and move to a completely virtual event. Never to miss the chance to celebrate together the rich 100 years of the World Service Council, we now plan to come together in person in New York City at the Cosmopolitan Club on Friday, October 22, 2021 for a “Centennial plus 1” celebration. Mark your calendar and watch for your invitation. To begin this Annual Report, we start with the 2019 Annual Meeting.



Connie Tate, Tycely Williams, Joelle Logue , Claudia Poster

## Annual Meeting 2019

Our 2019 Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with YWCA USA Conference in Washington, DC in June 2019.

Former World YWCA General Secretary Musimbi Kanyoro was the keynote speaker at the 99<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the World Service Council held on June 7, 2019. Just ending her role as the CEO of the Global Fund for Women, she spoke about her plans to return to her native country of Kenya and looking forward to participating in a project in Antarctica related to climate change. But most of the time, she focused on a colleague and mentor, Mildred Persinger, who passed away in 2017 at age 100 following a storied career in advancing women's rights through her advocacy at the United Nations.

Mildred was instrumental in getting women to the UN's policy tables and after sitting in on an all-male committee planning session for a conference on population, she moved to act! Her reaction and her strategy forward were inspiringly shown in a video provided by her dear friend Jill Sen. In the video, Mildred's ire was on display as she made her case to UN and USA government officials while garnering women around the world to protest to their governments. To her, it was absolutely ridiculous that women would not be involved in issues on population since they are key to populating the planet. It was Mildred at her best and she never stopped advocating. Her efforts, along with others, led to future UN conferences on Women and eventually the formation of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Casey Harden, General Secretary of the World YWCA, spoke about the then upcoming World Council meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa in November and focused on the support needed for countries facing the expensive costs of international travel. Appreciative for the funding received from the WSC for the internship program and young women's movement building, Casey acknowledged the value of the WSC -World YWCA partnership. She also spoke about the structural changes at the World office and the focus on meaningful data collection and accountability.



Elaine Carlson Musimbi Kanyoro



Carole Coppens Casey Harden

The business portion of the annual meeting began with the introduction of new officers for next year: Elaine Carlson and Deb Stock as Co-chairs, Joelle Logue as Secretary, Tracy Yellen as Finance Chair, and Carole Markus and Mildred Morrison as Membership Co-Chairs. Elaine acknowledged outgoing co-chair Connie Tate for her steady leadership over the past 10 years.

In her report, Elaine highlighted a first ever WSC initiative assisted by the World YWCA to connect members of the World Service Council and YWCA members here in the USA with YWCAs in other countries during World YWCA Day April 24, 2019.

### Commission on the Status of Women – 2020

UN CSW 64 was essentially cancelled in 2020. While many WSC members were excited to participate in the UN Commission on the Status of Women sessions in March of 2020, things came to a standstill just weeks before the opening March 7 due to the Covid-10 outbreak. They, along with thousands of women from across the globe, had to cancel their travel plans while NGO presentations that were scheduled throughout the city had to be scuttled. This session was to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action with a review and assessment of gender equality and empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Instead of two inspiring weeks of meetings to break down barriers, a procedural meeting was gavelled in on March 9 for opening statements followed by the adoption of the draft of Political Declaration. The session was then suspended. No general debate took place and all side events planned by Member States and the UN system in conjunction with CSW 64 were cancelled.



### Virtual WSC Annual Meeting of 2020 in October 2020

WSC celebrated its century of service with 2020 Annual Meeting Video since the scheduled in-person celebration had to be canceled because of the pandemic.

Led by Co-chairs, Claudia Poster and Catherine Hickey, by our technology savvy members, Luna Lee and Andrea Arbogast, and by the virtual meeting capacity of the YWCA USA, the World Service Council packed 100 years of history in its inspiring virtual celebration on October 15, 2020 when YWCA members and friends around the globe signed onto its zoom centennial event. The historic story was told through a narrative that traced the beginnings of the World Service Council from its inception to the present embellished by photos and

and interviews from former WSC chairs, World YWCA interns, World YWCA General Secretaries, and other global leaders.

World YWCA Board member from the USA, Andrea Arbogast, introduced the presentation and conducted two poll questions prior to turning it over to WSC Co-Chair Deb Stock, YWCA USA CEO Alejandra Castillo and World YWCA General Secretary Casey Harden who gave welcoming remarks and paid tribute to the Centennial Committee and the legacy of the WSC. Interspersed throughout the history of the WSC were comments from former WSC Chairs Joyce Mims and Connie Tate, former YWCA General Secretaries Elaine Steel and Musimbi Kanyoro, former interns Leanne Baumung, Muna Killingback, and Zin Mar Oo, along with former UNICEF Deputy Secretary Rima Salah, World YWCA Board Members Erica Lewis and Mtisunge Kachingwe, YWCA Japan Staff member Sumie Ogasawara, World YWCA staff member and former intern Caterina Lemp, and YWCA USA Global Relations Chair Carolyn Flowers, all who shared their personal experiences.

Casey Harden spoke to the constancy of the World Service Council through the years. While people and challenges came and went, and priorities changed over time, the World Service Council was always there to provide significant resources to support World YWCA, particularly the internship program that has mentored young women who return to their countries to take leading roles in their YWCAs like Zin Mar Oo who became General Secretary of YWCA Myanmar. Other interns have successfully found careers in gender equality development such as Leanne Baumung and gender research historian Muna Killingback. The WSC also supported the International Building Fund and educational and capacity building programs for fledgling YWCAs. A special category of support in recent years has been an emergency fund in order for the General Secretary to respond in timely manner to natural disasters, conflict and health crises.

Incoming WSC Co-Chair Mildred Morrison wrapped up the video by promoting the WSC's next century of service, looking forward to continuing the celebration in 2021 at an October in-person meeting in New York. Billed as 100+1, a highlight of the meeting will be a commemorative booklet that will acknowledge all donations, including those who have donated an extra \$100 or more for our 100 years of service in addition to their regular contributions. We urge all to join this special **Centennial Circle** in honor or in memory of a woman who has inspired you.

To view the video again, please visit the YWCA World Service Council website, [www.ywcaworldservicecouncil.org](http://www.ywcaworldservicecouncil.org).

## Members and Contributions

For over forty years, the World Service Council has been a major supporter of young women's training through the World YWCA. This support has been crucial to the World YWCA as some other international donors have changed priorities for their grants. For the 2020 grant to the World YWCA, we in the World Service Council were able to provide a grant of \$110,000 with \$100,000 for young women and strengthening of YWCAs, plus \$10,000 for the General Secretary to be able to respond timely to emergency situations.

In order to continue our strong financial support to the World YWCA, your WSC leadership has been assessing the need to increase our member contributions, both through increased individual annual contributions and also to increase the number of contributing members. In addition, we have a priority to engage more young women to be members of the World Service Council.

Therefore, while encouraging all members to give as generously as they can, we have removed the requirement that every member should give at least \$500 annually. Our expectation is that most members will give at this level or more, but that all members will contribute at whatever level they may see possible.

Thus, our annual goal is to increase both the total amount of gifts, and to bring more members to the World Service Council who will give as generously as they can. We encourage all our current members to invite women they know to join – easily accomplished by going to the WSC website: [www.ywcaworldservicecouncil.org](http://www.ywcaworldservicecouncil.org) All new members are introduced via the Annual Report and at the Annual Meetings.

## Executive Membership Policy & Succession Plan Developed

During 2019-2020, World Service Council officers worked on plans to further develop sustainable policies for the organization. Procedures for the executive committee membership and leadership were developed. Inherent in the plan was the intention to create more flexibility and a more useful framework.

It was decided that the Executive Committee shall consist of a minimum of 10 members who are nominated by the Nominating Committee, with recommendations by Executive Committee members, other members of the WSC, or through a self-nomination process. The Executive Committee shall include the Officers, as defined below. Committee members are responsible for implementing plans of strategies to achieve financial goals and sustaining the council's operations. Anyone interested in a leadership position with the WSC should contact any officer or Executive Committee member.

In order to be more intentional in carrying out duties, planners decided to expand the composition of the officers group beyond Chair/Co-chair, Secretary and Finance Chair positions. Added were Communications, Membership and Nominations Chairs. In addition, the immediate past Co-chair will now continue for another year.

## **Reports For Years 2019 and 2020**

### **from the World YWCA to the YWCA World Service Council**

**Report by the World YWCA to the World Service Council for the year 2019 includes:**

**Leadership Cohort 2019:** Young women leaders selected to be part of the first World YWCA Leadership Cohort share their experience and highlights during their time at the World YWCA office in Geneva, and as representatives of their YWCAs at the 29th World Council (2019).

During the 29th World Council year (2019), the World Office welcomed the first Leadership Cohort: Janet Mwaba from Zambia, Rickol Julien from Grenada, and Isabella Diaz from Honduras. Naomi Woyengu, regional coordinator for Asia-Pacific in the RiseUp! project helped to guide them through their time at the World Office during some of the busiest months of the year, with additional support from staff and volunteers. Together, the four young women contributed to important World YWCA documents such as the newly published glossary, and worked on different aspects of World Council. At World Council, they helped with coordination and preparation, and Janet joined the ad-hoc Steering Committee that coordinated many of the technical issues at World Council.

**Movement Building:** With the generous support of the World Service Council, a lot was accomplished in terms of movement building, particularly for the 29th World Council 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Other initiatives that were supported through movement building include nurturing relations with strategic partner organisations and donors such as the Government of Norway. In 2019, the funding of the World Service Council also supported the global YWCA movement in very critical and tangible ways. For World YWCA, the 2019 year – with the leadership of new General Secretary, Casey Harden – was focused on completing a full assessment of World YWCA challenges and opportunities, while focusing on continued leadership and advocacy initiatives toward Goal 2035, and also planning for and hosting the 29th World Council in South Africa. Another critical goal was raising the visibility of the YWCA global movement and leaders, and becoming an integral partner within the sector. World Service Council funding supported critical investments in making sure that the 29th World Council was inclusive and accessible for all YWCA leaders and partners.

Read the rich full report for 2019 ( [World YWCA 2019 report to World Service Council.pdf](#) which is an attachment in this email ) with photos, profiles and results from the Young Women Cohorts and on the impact of a global meeting with full accessibility of Spanish, French and English speakers, and leaders could see the value of their input to a collective discussion, resulting in rich dialogue and strongly supported (or not) mandates. As well, the World YWCA is a key player with other global partners, engaging in high outcome meetings.

## **Report by the World YWCA to the World Service Council for the year 2020 includes:**

Early in 2020 the world and the YWCA started facing many new and unique challenges that came with the global COVID-19 pandemic. The World YWCA, through its unique placement and by journeying together with key partners like the World Service Council (WSC), showcased its global presence, legitimacy, and community impact by transforming challenges into possibilities and taking steady steps towards our collective Goal for 2035.

The following report is a testament to how our journey with the WSC has been a vital element for this transformation to occur, especially as we step into the future and continue rising to the realities of a new era. World YWCA presents this report with a deep appreciation for the WSC of the YWCA USA's ongoing support throughout the years. We celebrate your leadership and thank you for so much during this transformative journey!

### **Internship Legacy Programme Journey**

Since 1991, the World Service Council has provided strategic financial support that has enabled young women worldwide to develop first-hand experience on different aspects of the movement's international and regional work and serve their communities as empowered managers and visionary leaders through internships with the World YWCA.

These internships have helped nurture and grow young women's leadership while strengthening the skills and capacities of YWCAs globally. A summary and examples of the young women's leadership program from 1991 to 2020 is included in the full report.

For 2020, the World YWCA chose 10 young women from different corners of the world as members of the newly designed World YWCA Leadership Cohort Programme. The programme's design allowed a further reach of leadership cohort members, with ten young women instead of two or three, and have six YWCA associations as hosts for the first time. The young women had the opportunity to work closely with their YWCA in their country and lead on different initiatives such as promoting women and girls' sexual reproductive health and rights, creating safe spaces, while advocating for a world free of gender-based violence.

As travel and in-person work in the Geneva office were no longer possible, the programme was once again redesigned to address the unique challenges of the pandemic. A call for applications for the Leadership Cohort 2020 was made, not only to young women leaders, but also to associations around the world requesting them to put forward their interest to host the selected leaders for the programme.

The programme was adapted to be flexible and meet cohort members' needs and expectations for a personal and professional growth experience. Over the three-month duration of the internship, trainings and activities focused on enhancing and further developing cohort members' leadership skills and knowledge.

In the full report, individual profiles, experiences, collaborations and visions are highlighted.

Go to: <https://bit.ly/3n6xwVv> to read and experience the concrete results using a variety of technologies to learn, collaborate and develop new skills.



### ***The Mission of the World YWCA***

The World YWCA vision is of a fully inclusive world where justice, peace, health, human rights, freedom and care for the environment are promoted and sustained through women's leadership.

### ***The Mission of the YWCA USA***

The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

### ***YWCA World Service Council***

The YWCA World Service Council is comprised of women with a global vision who care about our changing world and champion the work of the YWCA USA and World YWCA in their commitment to dignity, freedom, justice and peace.

### **YWCA World Service Council Executive Committee:**

Co-chairs, Mildred Morrison and Elaine Carlson

Secretary, Katherine Compagni

Membership Chair, Carole Marcus

Finance Chair, Tracy Yellen

Communications Chair, Joelle Logue

Immediate Past Co-chair, Debra Stock

Members: Andrea Arbogast, ex-officio, Gloria Chun Hoo, Carolyn Flowers, Catherine Hickey, Rebecca Hines, Kerry Healey, Luna Lee, Claudia Poster, Tycely Williams

### **YWCA World Service Council**

**YWCA USA, 1400 I (Eye) Street NW, Suite 325**

**Washington, DC 20005**

**[www.ywcaworldservicecouncil.org](http://www.ywcaworldservicecouncil.org)**

**[www.worldywca.org](http://www.worldywca.org)   [www.ywca.org](http://www.ywca.org)**