

## CASE STUDY: European YWCA: young women and representation

Women's leadership and advocacy are necessary in order to create decisions which operate positively for women. If women are not at the table, decisions will not reflect the reality of women's day to day lives, nor tackle the issues which face them in an unequal world.

- The European YWCA is a member of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) and the European Youth forum (EYF), both of which are part of the EU Social Platform.
- They seek to influence EU legislation and rulings around equality issues.
- EYWCA is represented by young women under 30 at Board level in the EWL, and at the Council of Members (COMEM) and General Assembly in the EYF.



It is crucial that young women are supported to develop their experience of advocacy and representation at national and international levels

Young women have a vital role play.

European Women's Lobby: the European YWCA is the only young women focused organisation to be represented at Board level. For the previous 4 years we had also been part of the Executive Committee. Our current representatives come from YWCA Norway and YWCA Greece. We asked our previous EWL representative to talk to us about what being a representative is like - what motivated and supported her. Listen to her here.

European Youth Forum: it is important for a young women focused organisation to be an active member as most youth-based organisations are generic and mixed sex. In May 2020 we worked with the Big Six (5 other youth-based organisations) to send a shared statement timed to link to a specific meeting of the Council of Ministers about the response to CV19 and Youth. We were able to emphasise the specific situation for girls and young women regarding CV19 and make the point that the issues for girls and young women are different to those of young men and boys. Our current representatives come from YWCA Scotland and YWCA Greece.



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