



A Program of Empower Peace

Women2Women – America 2015

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 – Saturday, August 8, 2015

STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

Conference Information

Women2Women America 2015 (W2W 2015) is a program of the Women2Women International Leadership Program sponsored by Empower Peace. W2W 2015 is an opportunity for young women ages 15-19 to participate in an educational cultural exchange in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. W2W 2015 will provide participants with the opportunity to learn, network and acquire leadership skills that will empower them to make a difference in their respective communities and countries. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet and develop friendships with their peers from around the world.

This is the Tenth annual Women2Women conference. Over 700 young women from over 50 countries have participated in the program.

Women2Women – America 2015 International Leadership Program

The Women2Women – America 2015 conference will focus on how you can “Claim Your Seat at the Table” and empower other young women to do the same. You will have the opportunity to learn about the current status of women and girls around the world, as well as the social and economic progress that is possible when women and girls have the opportunity to participate fully in every aspect of society. You will meet with leading figures tackling these challenges on an international scale, and develop your leadership skills so you can make a difference. Perhaps most importantly, you will be joining a lifelong, global network of young women who support each other and work together to contribute to positive change around the world.

The Challenges

Despite much progress, women and girls are still the most discriminated-against group in the world. Consider these facts:

- Of the 1 billion people living in absolute poverty around the world (unable to secure basic life necessities), 60% are women and girls.
- Women make up 2/3 of the estimated 876 million adults worldwide who cannot read or write; and girls make up 70% of the world's 130 million youth not attending school.
- Women contribute 2/3 of the world's working hours, yet earn only 10% of the income.
- An extra year of primary school education boosts a girl's eventual wages by 10-20%. An extra year of secondary school adds 15-25%.
- There are 31 million girls of primary school age not in school. Of these, 17 million are expected never to enter school.
- Worldwide, nearly 50% of all sexual assaults are against girls age 15 years or younger.
- 1 in 3 girls will experience some form of violence in their lifetime.
- 14 million girls aged 15-19 give birth in developing countries each year.
- Every minute of every day a pregnant woman dies from mostly preventable causes.
- At least one out of every three women and girls will be severely beaten in her lifetime.
- Women earn 78 cents to every dollar earned by a man.
- Every year 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders. 80% of the victims are women. 50% of the victims are minors.
- 1 in 7 girls in the developing world will be married before her 15th birthday.

Unfortunately, there is no community in the world that is untouched by these issues. It's time to come together and make a difference.

The Solutions

While the statistics above are shocking, so too are the results when women and girls are able to participate fully in society. Women involved in the political, social, and economic life of their countries and communities are better-positioned to increase attention for women's rights. Simply providing women and girls with an education can lead to healthier families and children, less poverty and stronger national economies. Education also equips women with the knowledge and skills needed to realize their potential and protect themselves from harm. By participating in W2W 2015, you will learn how to claim your seat at the table and become part of the solution.

Schedule

W2W 2015 will take place from Wednesday, July 29, 2015 through Saturday, August 8, 2015. July 29th and August 8th are considered travel days. International participants may begin their travel to Boston as early as July 28th. If you would like to see a copy of last year's schedule, [please click the link](#).

The conference will include: team-building activities; seminars and workshops with prominent leaders doing important work in government, media, business, science and technology, and non-profit; leadership development exercises and skill-building; outreach events with other youth and community leaders; and cultural activities. **Participants are required to partake in every conference activity.**

Transportation/Visas

If you are coming from within the United States...

- Empower Peace will provide all participants (other than those from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island) with round-trip transportation from an airport near their home to Boston's Logan International Airport. **All participants will be fully responsible for transportation to and from their local airport.**
- Empower Peace will all greet participants at Logan Airport in Boston and bring them to the conference.
- Transportation for all conference activities will be arranged through Empower Peace.
- Participants from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island must obtain their own transportation to and from the conference.
- Empower Peace **WILL NOT** accommodate any requests to extend a participant's stay in Boston. **All participants must depart Boston on their scheduled flight from Logan Airport.**

If you are coming from outside the United States...

- If accepted, participants will need to obtain a valid passport (if they do not already have one).
- Empower Peace will provide all participants, including teachers and education officials with round-trip transportation from an airport near their home to Boston's Logan International Airport. **All participants will be fully responsible for transportation to and from the airport in their home country.**
- Empower Peace will provide necessary documentation to help secure a travel visa interview to travel to the US. International participants will receive an acceptance letter with all the details about where you will be staying and what Empower Peace will be providing.
- If selected to attend W2W 2015, you must obtain your passport and secure a visa interview as soon as possible. **Participants should secure a Tourist Visa B2.**
- Transportation for all conference activities will be arranged through Empower Peace.
- Empower Peace **WILL NOT** accommodate any requests to extend a participant's stay in Boston or the United States. **All participants must depart Boston on their scheduled flight from Logan Airport.**
- **Participants are responsible for obtaining their own travel and airport transit visas. Some participants will need to obtain an airport transit visa – a visa required to wait for a few hours at the airport's international transit area.**
- Empower Peace will greet all participants at Logan Airport in Boston and bring them to the conference.

Housing/Meals

- All participants, including teachers and education officials will be housed in **dorms** at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA during the entire conference. Wheelock College is approximately 7 miles (about 11 km) from Logan Airport, near Fenway Park. (Approximately 15 minutes drive)
- Participants are expected to abide by all Empower Peace and Wheelock College dorm rules. Rules will be provided in your check-in materials,
- Participants will have at least one roommate from another delegation/country.
- Participants are not allowed to switch roommates or rooms.
- Participants will be living in an area shared by other Wheelock College students (non-conference participants). Women2Women participants will be housed on all female floors.

- Participants will not have private bathrooms. There are communal bathrooms on each dorm floor. You will share your bathroom with one other room.
- Empower Peace will provide all meals during the conference. **Halal food will be available on a limited basis. We will do our best to accommodate your needs.** Please indicate if you require Halal or kosher food. Please indicate if you have any food allergies (ie. gluten, nuts, etc.) in the application.

Financial Responsibilities

Conference Fees

Cost per participant: \$2,500 +airfare

There are limited hardship scholarships available for qualified applicant who cannot afford the conference fee. We strongly encourage **ONLY** those candidates that are in need to apply for a scholarship. **We encourage everyone to apply even if you cannot afford the conference fee.**

Costs covered by Empower Peace

- All conference related activities and ground transportation
- Food
- Lodging
- All costs connected to speakers, and conference development and implementation
- **For International participants, travel and basic health insurance.**

Costs covered by the participant (her family, and/or sponsoring agency)

- Air Travel to and from the conference
- Costs associated with securing passports
- Costs associated with securing visas – travel and airport transit (approximately \$160 USD)
- Transportation to and from airport in participant's home country/state
- Incidental costs
- Conference fee (if you have not received a scholarship)
- Empower Peace will not cover costs associated with the travel and airport visas or passport application process.

Application Requirements/Process

Young women, between the ages of 15-19 as of March 6,2015, in the United States and around the world are welcome to apply for the Women2Women – America 2015 conference.

The conference will be entirely conducted in English; therefore, participants must have a strong ability to speak, read and understand English.

In addition, Empower Peace is looking for applicants with the following abilities/interests:

- learning about other cultures, religions, and countries.
- political science/government, world events, media/journalism, community activism and/or business.
- active in community service activities and/or extracurricular activities.
- willing and able to work with a variety of individuals and teams from many different cultures, backgrounds and religions.
- demonstrate solid leadership qualities and abilities.
- make the most of this opportunity and share their experiences with others in their schools and communities when they return home.

Applicants must provide a general health history with their application.

Women2Women alumni are not eligible to apply as participants.

Applications must be submitted (online, e-mail or fax) or received (by mail) by **Thursday, April 30, 2015 by 5:00 PM EST**. Final selections will be made, and applicants will be notified (by e-mail, phone, or post mail), no later than **Wednesday, May 20, 2015 by 5:00 PM EST**. A W2W 2015 Review Board will be responsible for the full application and selection process. Final acceptance for this conference will be made with consideration to the diversity of geographic, racial, ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds represented in the full group of participants.

Applying as a Delegation*

Applicants are encouraged to apply in delegations of 2-4 students, accompanied by a teacher or education official. Special consideration will be given to these groups. Each member of the delegation should apply individually, but indicate their delegation on the application.

* Please note: Applying as a delegation does not guarantee that all members of the delegation will be accepted.

Applications can be submitted via mail, e-mail, online or fax.

Mail:

Attn: Molly Lomenzo
Women2Women International Leadership Program
c/o Empower Peace
240 Commercial Street, Suite 2B
Boston, MA 02109
USA

Fax:

International Fax Number: 001.617.570.9159
Domestic Fax Number: 617.570.9159

Online:

Student Application:

<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=mjkixfeZ3NLe9pLIUwDAoA>

Teacher/Education Official Application:

<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=3HjnM4a18VclDOD8td7gDA>

E-Mail:

E-mail: applications@empowerpeace.org

- If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact Tricia Raynard at +1.617.912.3821 or via e-mail at traynard@empowerpeace.org. You may also contact Kari Johnston at +1.617.912.3817 or kjohnston@empowerpeace.org or Molly Lomenzo at +1.617.912.3806 or mlomenzo@empowerpeace.org.
- **All application forms must be received by Thursday, April 30, 2015 by 5:00 PM EST to be considered.**
- Young women who have been selected to attend Women2Women – America 2015 will be contacted by e-mail or phone or home address by **Wednesday, May 20, 2015 by 5:00 PM EST**.
- All information submitted in this application form is confidential and will be used for conference purposes only.
- For more information and new updates about Women2Women – America 2015 please visit our web site at **www.empowerpeace.org**.



Founded in 2003, Empower Peace bridges cultural and communication divide between young people worldwide. With a focus on connecting youth in the United States and Arab and Muslim world, Empower Peace uses the latest in interactive technologies and intensive leadership training to break down misconceptions and build meaningful relationships and skills. Through a global network of students and schools, Empower Peace is providing the next generation with the opportunities and tools needed to advance mutual respect, understanding, and peace.



APPLICATION

SPONSORED BY:
EMPOWER PEACE

- Complete the following application form. Please type or print clearly with a pen in ENGLISH.
- **Applications must be received by Thursday, April 30, 2015 by 5:00 PM EST .**
- Applications may be submitted by post mail, e-mail or fax.
- Confirmation e-mails will be sent to applicants within 72 hours of receipt.
- Send applications to:

By Mail:

Attn: Molly Lomenzo
Women2Women International Leadership Program
c/o Empower Peace
240 Commercial Street, Suite 2B
Boston, MA 02109
USA

By Fax:

001.617.570.9159 - International
617.570.9159 – Domestic

By E-mail:

applications@empowerpeace.org

Please contact Molly Lomenzo at +1.617.912.3806 or mlomenzo@empowerpeace.org if you have any questions or if you do not receive a confirmation e-mail after you have sent in your application.

Name as it Appears on Passport or License (if Applicable)

Date of Application (DD/MM/YYYY)

Home/Street Address

Telephone Number (Include Country Code)

City

Province/State

Postal Code

Country

Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year)

Place of Birth (City, State, Country)

Citizenship

E-mail Address (Please Print Clearly)

Please Check One:

- I am a United States citizen.
- I am not a United States citizen but am currently attending school/college in the United States.
- I am not a United States citizen and am not attending school/college in the United States.

Have you applied to the Women2Women Conference before? YES NO

If Yes, please tell us what year you applied. 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010
 2011 2012 2013 2014

Passport and Visa Information

In order to attend the W2W 2015 Conference, all international participants must have a valid passport. Your passport expiration date must be at least 6 months after August 8, 2015.

Do you currently hold a valid passport? YES NO

If yes, what country is your passport issued by?

What is your passport number? _____

What is the expiration date on your passport? _____

If you hold a valid passport, please attach a clear copy of the picture page of your passport to this application.

Have you ever obtained a travel visa? YES NO

If yes, please list visa country and dates acquired.

Name of School/College/Organization

School Year or Occupation

High School and or College Attended (If not currently a student)

Major Subjects/Academic Interests

Degree Earned (if applicable)

Please tell us how you heard about Women2Women – America 2015 (US Embassy, e-mail, flyer, postcard, web site, at a conference, from a teacher, friend, parent, etc.)

Please tell us about any extracurricular activities and community service programs you participate in. (Please use additional paper if necessary. Additional sheets **MUST** be labeled with your name and attached to this application.)

These personal statements help us become acquainted with you. It will demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself. If you require additional space, please use a separate sheet of paper.

Additional sheet(s) MUST be labeled with your name and attached to this application. Please try to limit your responses to 500 words for each question.

1. Tell us about yourself. Share with us something you have accomplished that you are proud of.
2. This conference attracts emerging leaders from all over the world, reflecting diverse cultures, religion and opinions. How do you see yourself engaging in this experience?
3. We will be discussing important issues affecting women and girls around the world. What are some ways you can share your experiences with others in your school and community?

One key element of Women2Women – America 2013 will be a discussion on women’s rights. The term “women’s rights” refers to the freedoms inherently possessed by women and girls of all ages, which may be institutionalized, ignored or suppressed by law, custom, and behaviors in a particular society.

4. To that end, what do you consider to be the most pressing women’s issue confronting women in your country?
What do you consider to be the most pressing women’s issue today for women everywhere?

There is a \$2,500 (USD) conference fee for all non-sponsored participants to cover housing and transportation costs. A limited number of scholarships are available. If you do not receive a scholarship, you are still welcome to attend but you must be able to provide the \$2,500 conference fee.

Would you like to be considered for a scholarship? YES NO

If you would like to be considered for a scholarship please tell us why you should be considered for a scholarship. (Maximum 200 words – Additional sheets **MUST** be labeled with your name and attached to this application.)

Are you applying as a member of a delegation? YES NO

If yes, please list the teacher/education official and the names of the other students who will be traveling with you.

Teacher/Chaperone

School/Organization Name

Names of Students in Your Delegation

Names of Students in Your Delegation (Continued)

In order to monitor and promote the participation rate of women from various racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds, we request that you provide the following information. **You are not required to respond.**

Racial/Ethnic Background (Check one)

American Indian or Alaska Native

Hispanic or Latino

Asian

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Black or African American

Arab

White or Caucasian

South Asian

Other: Please specify _____

Religious Background: _____

I certify that the information in my application, including my essays, is my own work, factually true and honestly presented.

Signature of Applicant

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

Empower Peace will review all completed applications. By submitting this application to the Women2Women International Leadership Program, I understand that I am not guaranteed attendance.

HEALTH HISTORY
WOMEN2WOMEN – AMERICA 2015

First Name	Last Name	Middle Initial
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In Case of Emergency, please notify:

First Name	Last Name	Relationship to Applicant
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Address

City	State/Province	Postal Code	Country
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Home Phone	Work Phone	Cellular (Mobile) Phone (if applicable)
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Are you physically disabled? YES NO

I use a: Wheelchair Cane Metal Walker Other: Please specify: _____

I am: Blind or visually impaired accompanied by a guide dog Other: _____

I am deaf or hearing impaired: YES NO

I require a sign language interpreter: YES NO Other: _____

Do you require Halal meat? YES NO

Do you require a Kosher diet? YES NO

Do you have any dietary needs? YES NO

Do you have any food allergies (ie. gluten, nuts, seeds, etc.)? YES NO

Do you have any health problems that we need to be aware of? YES NO

If yes, please describe your health problems below:

Do you have any allergies we should be aware of? YES NO

If yes, please list your allergies below.

Please list any medications that you are taking at the present time or will be taking during the conference:

I certify the above statements to be true and correct and that to the best of my knowledge I am in good health and able to participate in this conference.

Signature of Applicant:

Date (DD/MM/YYYY):

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date (DD/MM/YYYY): _____

(Mandatory if Applicant is Under the Age of 18)

EMPOWER PEACE WOMEN2WOMEN – AMERICA 2014 PARTICIPANT RELEASE FORM

Dear Applicant:

Women2Women – America 2015 (W2W 2015) is a program of the Women2Women International Leadership Program, and is an event sponsored by Empower Peace and numerous other corporate and community entities. This multimedia event is a unique combination of education, leadership training, entertainment, interactive dialogue, and inspiration. If you need additional information about this event, please contact Tricia Raynard at +1.617.912.3821 or traynard@empowerpeace.org or Molly Lomenzo at +1.617.912.3806 or mlomenzo@empowerpeace.org. In order to attend the conference, this form **MUST** be completed and returned by Thursday, April 30, 2015 by 5:00 PM EST.

Participant’s Name (as it appears on Passport or License): _____

Name of School/College/Organization: _____

Home Address: _____ Country: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone (Include Country Code): _____ Mobile Phone (Include Country Code): _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please check all that apply:

Wheelchair Access Sign Language Interpretation Other Services

If you checked “Other Services,” please explain: _____

If selected, I hereby agree to participate in W2W 2015 from Wednesday, July 29, 2015 to Saturday, August 8, 2015, based at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. I understand that I will be returning home on Saturday, August 8, 2015. I understand that I am to attend all proceedings that are part of this conference. By signing this, I am granting my permission to be photographed on film or videotape for use in any Women2Women International Leadership Program and/or Empower Peace fund-raising or educational materials.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date (DD/MM/YYYY) _____

Parent/Guardian Consent

To be completed for all participants under the age of 18 before March 31, 2015.

I hereby grant permission for the individual named above to participate in Women2Women – America 2015 from Wednesday, July 29, 2015 to Saturday, August 8, 2015 based at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. I understand that the individual named above will be returning home on Saturday, August 8, 2015 and is to attend all proceedings that are part of this conference. By signing this, I am granting my permission for the individual named above to be photographed on film or videotape for use in any Women2Women International Leadership Program and/or Empower Peace fund-raising or educational materials.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Relationship to Applicant _____ Date (DD/MM/YYYY) _____

Remember to send in all completed application forms Thursday, April 30, 2015 by 5:00 PM EST

Mail to:

**Women2Women International Leadership Program
c/o Empower Peace
Attn: Molly Lomenzo
240 Commercial Street, Suite 2B
Boston, MA 02109**

**Fax to:
001.617.570.9159**

**or E-mail to:
applications@empowerpeace.org**

For more information about Empower Peace or W2W 2015, visit our web site at www.empowerpeace.org.

You will receive a confirmation e-mail within 72 hours of receipt of your completed application.