



Women2Women International Leadership Program

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The Women2Women International Leadership Program (W2W) is a program of Empower Peace, a Boston, MA based non-profit whose mission is to provide young people around the world with the tools needed to advance mutual respect, understanding and cultural awareness.

There is an increasing awareness of the critical role that women and girls play in advancing both peace and development. Research shows that families, communities, and nations prosper when girls have the opportunity to participate fully in every aspect of society. W2W builds a network of promising young women from around the globe, engages them in the issues that define their lives, and provides them with the tools, relationships and opportunities required to lead.

Izzah, Pakistan -

"It will certainly make you believe that women hold up half the sky and you are one of them."



W2W America

W2W America is where the leadership journey begins. W2W America is a 10-day summer program that takes place in Boston, MA and is specifically designed for young women between the ages of 15 to 19 years of age. For the past eight years, W2W has provided over 600 emerging international young women leaders from 43 countries with leadership training and social entrepreneurship skills, while strengthening their cultural competencies. In many communities from which W2W delegates are selected, youth are not naturally exposed to other cultures. This lack of diversity often breeds misconceptions about other peoples and societies, both domestically and internationally.

Through the training, networking and heightened comprehension of global affairs learned during this program, delegates break down barriers of misunderstanding and replace them with bridges of mutual trust and respect among often-unlikely allies.

Working with our educational partners who are associated with prestigious universities such as The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Law School, the W2W conference unites these emerging leaders with the issues they share as young women and enables them to take action in their own communities. Women2Women alumni synthesize their experience by implementing civic engagement action plans upon returning home.

Delegates are selected through an application process. For the past two years Wheelock College has served as the campus host for our program. Delegates stay in the dorms and share a room with a young leader from another country. Empower Peace staff members reside on campus throughout the program and are available 24 hours a day.

W2W America Featured Programs

Each year, we are fortunate to work with leaders in education, business, government and human rights advocates in developing our program. Working with our partners, we develop a comprehensive program that includes personal leadership development, conflict resolution, negotiation, understanding the media, the power of social networking, global human rights, public speaking and most importantly, how to develop and implement an action plan.

Many of workshop leaders and trainers are associated with prestigious colleges and universities including the Kennedy School of Government and The Women and Public Policy Program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, The Carr Center for Human Rights and Policy at Harvard University, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and Wheelock College.

Art of Negotiation

Some of our annual featured programs include the “Art of Negotiation” led by Susan Hackley, the managing director at the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. The “Negotiation” workshop helps our delegates understand the basics of negotiation, compromise and the utilization of successful communication skills. The negotiation tactics learned in this workshop will serve not only as essential techniques in their future careers, but also as valuable skills that our delegates can apply in their daily lives, such as the necessity of prioritizing, compromise and integrity. Susan Hackley is a leader in her field and has taught negotiation seminars in China, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain and Italy.

“I am standing here and looking at women who are going to drive the future of this planet... You were chosen to be here because inside of you there is a drive, an intelligence, a sensitivity, a compassion, a creativity, a sense of urgency an ability to connect to others that is extraordinary.”

– Ambassador Swanee Hunt



Claim Your Seat

Victoria Budson, the founding Executive Director at the Women and Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government works with W2W each year to help delegates better understand the status of women worldwide. She focuses on the importance of women claiming their seat at the table and making their voices heard. This interactive and high-energy discussion helps the young women begin identifying key issues in their own country and in the process learn about the struggles of their international peers. It is through this discussion that the young women begin developing their action plans.

Using Social Media For Social Change

Rusty Tunnard, a professor of Social Media at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy leads a two-part workshop about how to successfully use social networks to bring about positive social change. Professor Tunnard shows the W2W delegates how action-oriented social networks are formed and how to connect people to build a foundation for positive change. By the end of the workshop series our young leaders have not only learned how to analyze a social network, they create their own network that can be used to further their action plans.



Al Arabiya Broadcast “Women’s Chat”

For the past three years Al Arabiya, one of the largest media outlets in the Middle East, has partnered with Empower Peace in producing a one-hour broadcast program featuring our W2W delegates. In addition, the program features a panel of experts that discuss women's issues around the world. This past year the program participants included former Massachusetts Lt. Governor Kerry Healey, Elizabeth Cafferty, Senior Advocacy Officer at the United Nations and Women's Refugee Commission, Linda Lockhart, Founder and CEO of the Global Give Back Circle and Nasser Weddady, Director of Civil Rights Outreach at the American Islamic Council. The program centered around a broad spectrum of women's issues and was broadcast on both Arabiya and Arabiya Al Hadath channels in the Middle East and North Africa to a viewing audience of millions.



BBC Radio “World Have Your Say”

Understanding how to work with the media is an important skill that many of our young leaders will utilize throughout their lives. The BBC's “World Have Your Say” radio program joined our Women2Women program for the first time in 2011. World Have Your Say is a global conversation where the BBC provides the platform and the listeners control the topics discussed. Women2Women delegates were featured on the World Have Your Say live radio program and had the chance to comment on current events and issues impacting women around the world. The two-hour program was broadcast live from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.



Special Guest Speakers

Sharing experiences and knowledge is an important piece in leadership development. To that end, many internationally known leaders have joined our program to share their journey and offer hope and inspiration to our delegates.

Ambassador Swanee Hunt, *President, Hunt Alternatives*

Karen McLaughlin, *W2W Chair, Policy Advisor, Program on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, Harvard University*

Christina Bain, *Director, Program on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy*

Jane Christo, *Former General Manager of WBUR-AM, a National Public Radio Station, Program Specialist at the Fletcher School's Edward R. Murrow Center*

Kerry Healey, *Former MA Lt. Governor & Public Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan*

Saran Kaba Jones, *Executive Director, FACE Africa*

Sharmila Murthy, *Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government*

Priti Rao, *Executive Director, Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus*

Todd Patkin, *Author & Motivational Speaker*

Jamila Raqib, *Executive Director, Albert Einstein Institute*

Felisa Tibbitts, *Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government*

Rose Pavlov, *Founder & President, Ivy Child International*

Selena Sermeno, Ph.D., *Conflict Analysis and Engagement*

Hassina Sherjan, *Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Aid Afghanistan for Education*

Nasser Weddady, *Director of Civil Rights Outreach, American Islamic Congress*



W2W Action Plan Development

W2W is a program designed to help young women further develop their leadership skills and help them understand the important role they play in their communities and countries. Each W2W delegate is charged with the responsibility of developing an action plan on an issue they care about in their own country. Delegates arrive in Boston prepared to develop an action plan around this issue. Throughout the week they participate in workshops and discussions that are specifically designed to help them develop their action plan. Delegates work on their plan throughout the week and present it to a panel of experts who provide feedback and recommendations. The network our delegates form during W2W provides the support needed to not only develop their action plans but also to provide the encouragement needed when they return home. Our young leaders have made great strides in making positive changes in their home countries. Below are some examples of their remarkable work.

“When young women come together to inspire and learn from one another on leadership, then we are miles ahead in solving the pressing issues that face our society. Empowering women means redefining global leadership on a peaceful platform.” — Wilkista, Kenya

Amira, Egypt Amira has launched a program entitled “Half the World”. The goal of the program is to provide young girls in Egypt with the power and self confidence to speak up and make a difference in their lives. Since August Amira has developed and implemented six workshops in the greater Cairo area for groups of young women ranging in age. The workshops covered a variety of issues impacting women including sexual harassment, women’s rights and the importance of women working together. She has received outstanding feedback and has garnered the support of 47 volunteers to help with this project.

Fatima, Iraq Fatima is dedicated to educating young people about the important role women play in society. She has led discussions at all boys and girls schools to teach them not only about women’s rights but also to find their the confidence to share their opinions on a variety of topics impacting their communities. Fatima has received high praise for her work and has been asked to return and work with more students.

Nesrine, Algeria With the help of her mother, Nesrine is working with “SOS Girls in Need” to provide young girls in Algeria with the assistance they need to continue their education. Nesrine has helped to organize discussions with the young girls about social issues including the dangers of rape, abuse, early marriage and bullying. She is also starting to work on a school magazine tackling these important issues.

We are extremely proud of the work being done by the W2W alumnae! Visit our website to view some of their work and action plan updates at empowerpeace.org.

W2W Application Process

The application for the Women2Women International Leadership Program is available online at www.empowerpeace.org. Students can apply as an individual or as part of a delegation. International students applying as a delegation must have a chaperone willing to travel with them and participate in the program. Application details are available on our web site.

Contact Information

Tricia Raynard, Executive Director,
Empower Peace
Direct: (617) 912-3821
traynard@empowerpeace.org
www.empowerpeace.org