

Younger Women's Task Force
CHAPTER CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

To help facilitate and support younger women's leadership and movement building, we, the members of the Younger Women's Task Force, establish this Constitution on January 30, 2006.

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of each YWTF Chapter (or "local") shall include "the Younger Women's Task Force, a project of the National Council of Women's Organizations."

This organization is a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-partisan, voluntary organization associated with National Council of Women's Organizations ("NCWO").

ARTICLE II. YWTF Mission, Vision, and Chapter Purposes

The Younger Women's Task Force, a project of the National Council of Women's Organizations, is a nationwide, diverse and inclusive grassroots movement dedicated to organizing younger women and their allies to take action on issues that matter most to them. By and for younger women, YWTF works both within and beyond the women's movement, engaging all who are invested in advancing the rights of younger women.

Through its chapters across the country, YWTF members are working to:

1. **PROVIDE** a stronger voice in the policy making process for women in their 20's and 30's;
2. **INCREASE** the impact of younger women activists through the articulation of, and collaboration on, a common agenda;
3. **CREATE** a culture of inclusion where decision-making and power are practiced collectively, and members from diverse backgrounds participate in all levels of YWTF;
4. **DEFINE** and develop the next generation of women;
5. **CREATE** a local and national network for peer mentoring, networking and sharing resources.

YWTF concentrates on all issues that affect the lives of younger women. Because YWTF is made up of a network of grassroots movements around the country, and YWTF recognizes the diversity of views of its members, the YWTF shall not have a specific younger women's agenda on which all chapters must base their activities.

Nevertheless, the above YWTF mission and vision statements guide our actions. Additionally, while YWTF chapters can and should work for change on issues that are most important to their communities, YWTF also has an issue statement that YWTF chapter members must agree not to work against. Finally, because we are a project of the NCWO, we must also agree not to work against NCWO's premises and priorities.

ARTICLE III. YWTF Structure

YWTF is a project of NCWO. YWTF chapter members are individuals located around the country who work with their local chapter of YWTF as individuals; members participate as individuals and not as representatives of any other organizations with which they may be affiliated.

The YWTF National Coordinating Committee ("NCC" or "national"), lead by the YWTF Project Director, is a group of individual YWTF members who participate in national committees to help the

organization run smoothly. Some of the NCC participants may be leaders of YWTF chapters and some may not. The NCC is an infrastructure for YWTF that provides research, policy, website, and organizational support for the YWTF chapter leaders if requested as well as serving as a communications portal connecting the chapters to each other and to NCWO.

ARTICLE IV. Local Chapter Standards and Requirements

YWTF is meant to encompass a national social movement of younger women. In recognition of the diversity of the needs and goals of the younger women within the movement, the YWTF organization consists of a national network of local YWTF grassroots organizations.

These organizations, YWTF chapters, are autonomous from YWTF National and NCWO. The day-to-day decisions of YWTF chapters are made on the local YWTF community level. YWTF chapter events, programming, and meetings are sponsored by the local chapters who hold them and their success is dependant on the women who lead the local chapters.

Nevertheless, because the YWTF and NCWO names will be used in YWTF chapter organizing, all decisions and particularly very large, public, or significant policy decisions, must not be in conflict with YWTF's and NCWO's premises and priorities.

To support new leadership and to aid those who may be new to movement organizing, YWTF National is available to lend assistance to chapter leaders, aid them in research, brainstorming, and public relations as well as to facilitate networking and resource-sharing among YWTF members whether the member is associated with a chapter or not.

EXPECTATIONS

In order to be a YWTF chapter the local organization must:

1. **ASSEMBLE** at least one meeting of the local chapter membership a month. Meetings may be in person, over the telephone, or electronic. Though participation of all members is not required, sufficient notice prior to the meeting to all local chapter members is expected.
2. **SUSTAIN** a membership of at least seven people, within six months of its formation.
3. **CARRY OUT** at least one program (see program outlines for more information on programming) every quarter;
4. **MAINTAIN**, at minimum, two local chapter members in leadership positions including one Chapter Director whose expectations are outlined below.
5. **PERMIT** any younger woman who agrees not to work against the YWTF and NCWO premises and priorities to apply for membership in the local chapter.
6. **NOT DISCRIMINATE** on the basis of race, sexual orientation, national origin, age, religion, ethnicity, education, profession, parental status, or disability. Moreover, all chapters should be welcoming and inclusive while actively striving to maintain diversity in all of the categories mentioned above.

If a YWTF local chapter does not meet the above expectations, such local chapter may be dissolved at the discretion of the NCC.

In order to remain a YWTF Chapter Director you must:

1. **FUNDRAISE. THIS INCLUDES:**
 - **SETTING** a fundraising goal and meeting the goal six months from the organization's starting date and once every six months thereafter. For new chapters this may be as low as in the double digits.

- **SEEKING** out fundraising opportunities in your state, community, and with any national fundraising appeals.
 - **FUNDRAISING** with the project director in your region.
2. **SEEK AND SUSTAIN MEMBERS. THIS INCLUDES:**
- **SETTING** a membership goal and meeting the goal six months from the date you set your local chapter goal. (This goal should reflect the reality of your community. If you live in a very small town a goal of 5 or 10 new members is a good goal for your first six months, if you live in a large metro area you may want to set that goal higher!).
 - **CONTINUING** to actively outreach to the community and bringing in at least one new member every quarter.
 - **SENDING** the YWTF national project director a list of your local chapter members by the 1st day of each month in Excel format.
 - **COMMUNICATING** with local chapter members on a regular basis (weekly or at least bi-weekly) when planning events, meetings, and chapter activities.
 - **ADVOCATING** for cultural and public policy issues that are important to and will better the lives of younger women in your community.
 - **MAKING** best effort to ensure that above chapter expectations are met, working diligently toward chapter success.
3. **ENGAGE IN THE YWTF NATIONAL COMMUNITY. THIS INCLUDES:**
- **SCHEDULING** and participating in a telephone call with the Project Director once a month.
 - **SHARING** chapter director forms with the NCC including programming and fundraising reports on the 1st day of every month.
 - **PARTICIPATING** in YWTF National Leadership conference calls. If you cannot attend you must send a proxy from your chapter in your place. No more than two calls may be missed.
 - **SHARING** content for your chapter website on the 1st and 15th of every month or more often if possible.

If a YWTF local chapter director does not meet the above expectations, the NCC may advise the chapter to seek other chapter leadership and/or such local chapter may be dissolved at the discretion of the NCC.

In exchange for your participation, and adherence to the specified policies above, your YWTF chapter can expect to:

1. **USE** the YWTF logo and communications materials for your local chapter sponsored events.
2. **PARTICIPATE** in the quarterly YWTF grant making fund, if available, to finance your local actions.
3. **BECOME A PART OF** the national network of younger women who make up the YWTF.
4. **ENGAGE** women in your community to action.
5. **PARTICIPATE** in national grant-making opportunities for your local chapter.
6. **DEVELOP** professionally and build leadership and organizational skills.
7. **GAIN** exposure to national, state, and local women leaders.

YWTF Chapter Director /date

YWTF Project Director /date