



World Youth Alliance Backgrounder

World Youth Alliance Mission:

The World Youth Alliance is a global coalition of young people committed to promoting the dignity of the person and building solidarity among youth from developed and developing nations. We train young people to work at the regional and international levels to impact policy and culture. Through this lived experience of the dignity of the person young people are able to affirm life at all levels of society.

Background:

Founded in 1999 at the United Nations Cairo +5 Conference on Population and Development in New York, the World Youth Alliance is now made up of 1,000,000 members from 100 countries worldwide. WYA is a United Nations accredited non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Headquartered in New York City, the World Youth Alliance operates offices in five regions: Nairobi for Africa, Manila for Asia-Pacific, Brussels for Europe, Mexico City for Latin America, and New York for North America.

Goals:

Training:

WYA trains young people in the philosophical foundations of the dignity of the person and human rights, diplomacy, and international development issues. This is accomplished through two levels of certified training and regional and international internships. Track A training must be completed by members wishing to participate in advocacy and international internships. Advanced Track B training is completed by international interns and required for National Committee and staff members.

Advocacy:

WYA directly participates in conventions and conferences at international institutions, including the United Nations, European Union, and the Organization of American States. WYA Africa is currently applying for status at the African Union.

Culture:

WYA promotes person-centered development projects and cultural events.

- Europe4Family—a five week trans-Europe bike trip with 2,000 participants—commemorated the International Year of the Family in 2004.
- Viviamo! Habitat projects in each region highlighted best-practices in human settlements, coinciding with the International Year of Habitat in 2006. WYA members partner with these organizations to develop habitats at the grassroots level.
- Cultural events—film festivals, art displays, etc—emphasize culture and its influence on humanity. Ubuchindami film and book lists compile works that best express the dignity and freedom of the human person.

Solidarity:

Summer exchange work programs and internships allow young people to work with peers in a foreign country toward a common goal. These cross-cultural experiences create solidarity between developed and developing nations.