

# Empowering young women and girls in Kenya



Deborah Olwal, National General Secretary, YWCA Kenya

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Kenya is a non-governmental, membership-based organisation founded in 1912, to foster the collective power of women, youth and girls in Kenya.

Emancipation on all fronts – social, economic, political, and cultural – is the primary goal of YWCA Kenya, which is part of a global movement of YWCAs in over 120 countries, affiliated to the World YWCA in Geneva that champions women's empowerment, leadership and rights.

From its headquarters in Nairobi, YWCA Kenya operates branches strategically located in Mombasa, Tana River, Meru, Nairobi, Kisumu, Siaya, and Kisii.

## Key Thematic Areas

1. Young Women's Leadership Development
2. Girls' Educational Empowerment
3. Women and Girls' Health and Wellness
4. Socio-Economic Empowerment for Women and Girls
5. Conflict Transformation and Peace Advocacy
6. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience
7. Rights Advocacy and Gender Equality.

## Programmes

### The Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy and Accountability (YW4A)

This is an initiative funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands' Power of Women grant instrument. The programme is a partnership of eight core



Young women leaders from YWCA Kenya spreading awareness against SGBV during a 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence event, supported by the YW4A programme in Meru County. PHOTO | YWCA Kenya.

partners and local women's rights and faith-based organisations in the counties of Meru, Kisii and Migori, advocating for young women's rights in Kenya, promoting dignity, bodily integrity, and equal participation.

Through the YW4A programme, YWCA Kenya is making remarkable strides in empowering young women and Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) across various pathways, driving impactful changes in advocacy, organisational capacity, partnerships, media engagement, and catalysing positive change in Kenya's legal and policy landscape.

### Deepening African Youth, Women and Indigenous People's engagement in Post Paris Climate Dialogue Processes

YWCA Kenya is taking significant steps

towards amplifying the voices of marginalised communities in Kenya by highlighting the pivotal role played by African youth, women and indigenous communities that are often left out of crucial climate change dialogues, perpetuating a missed opportunity to harness their knowledge and capability in crafting effective climate solutions.

### Interfaith engagement for peace and justice in Kenya

YWCA Kenya has been able to foster strong partnerships between interfaith peace groups, community groups and government security agencies, to create a united front against Violent Extremism (VE). By enabling community-government collaboration, we not only address SDG 16, but also achieve SDG 17, fostering partnerships and relationships that pave

the way for Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) in Kenya.

### Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – Promoting Youth Access to Life Skill Based SRHR

This is a transformative exchange project funded by NOREC through Y-Global. The collaborative effort has ignited positive change across borders. YWCA Kenya proudly spearheads this initiative in collaboration with partners in Norway, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

### Facilities at the YWCA

**Hostels:** The YWCA provides accommodation for university students and young professionals looking for a secure, strategically located hostels across all the major towns we operate in.

**Conference Halls:** YWCA offers conference and meeting facilities with a variety of packages aimed at fulfilling the needs of different clients. Whether hosting a board meeting, family meeting, "chama" meeting, or a large conference, your event will be customised to your needs.

**Serviced Apartments:** Fully owned by the YWCA, Parkview Suites, Nairobi, is an exclusive unit that offers 47 all-ensuite studio rooms conveniently located 5-10 minutes' walk to the Nairobi Central Business District. The rooms face the beautiful Central Park. They are spacious, quiet and private, fitted with a kitchenette and fast internet. Guests can use them for either short or long stay.

Scan the QR code below to find out more about what we do and how you can become a member.



At YWCA Kenya, we believe that empowering young women and girls to lead isn't just about breaking barriers; it's about reshaping the landscape of possibility. Through mentorship, training, and advocacy, we are nurturing a new generation of leaders who are influencing positive change and challenging norms that perpetuate violence against women and girls.



Contacts: Email: [info@ywcakenya.org](mailto:info@ywcakenya.org) | Telephone: 020 8022613 or 020-2724789  
Facebook: YWCA Kenya | X : KenyaYwca | Instagram: ywca\_kenya | LinkedIn: YWCAKenya Website: [www.ywcakenya.org](http://www.ywcakenya.org)

