



REACH OUT! SPEAK UP!

IGNITE CHANGE NOW
GLOBAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Hosted by the



John Humphrey Centre
for Peace and Human Rights
pour la paix et les droits de la personne

www.youthassembly.ca

program@youthassembly.ca

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

30 JULY TO 2 AUGUST 2009

EDMONTON, CANADA

REACH OUT, SPEAK UP! Ignite Change Now - Global Youth Assembly 2009 (GYA) will provide a vibrant social forum for 1000 Canadian and international youth between the ages of 16-28 to learn about and promote human rights and sustainable communities. The youth will come together for three days of world-class keynotes, interactive workshops, and break-outs that will focus on bridging diversity and strengthening youth capacity to become active members in their communities.

In 2009, delegates will explore the theme of “**building community**”. We are all architects of our communities through decisions we make every day. *How can **Youth** be positive architects of their communities?* We will be seeking workshops that explore this idea at the global and local levels.

The objectives of the 2009 GYA are:

- **Promote** diversity and inclusion
- **Encourage** youth expression through various media
- **Educate** youth by building awareness and developing knowledge
- **Empower** youth through skills training and creative workshops
- **Support** continued dialogue and youth action

Promote Diversity and Inclusion

Our priority is to offer the opportunity for youth from different backgrounds to come together and learn from each other. Rarely do aboriginal and non-aboriginal youth, youth with and without disabilities, Canadian and international youth, High School and University youth, students and young professionals, high risk and low risk youth, and science and arts students have the chance to be in the same room. The GYA invites all youth (16-28) to attend the GYA to focus on their similarities and common goals. The GYA itself builds a community of youth, a community that is diverse, hopeful, and engaged. All youth are welcome to be members of this community.

Encourage Youth Expression through Various Media

Reach Out, Speak Up! The GYA is designed to encourage youth to express themselves through music, dance, discourse, video, debate, poetry, art, writing, evaluation, etc. There are many ways for one to contribute to the collective youth voice. The GYA's multi-media and celebratory nature helps youth feel comfortable contributing to the Assembly in a media of their choice and trying new forms of communication.

Educate Youth by Building Awareness and Developing Knowledge

The GYA 2009 is a three-day international “classroom” that uses creative methods to encourage all participants, including presenters and non-youth, to teach and learn from each other. The GYA complements formal education by going beyond the textbook. Youth may have heard about certain issues in their classes or through T.V. and Internet. The GYA gives them the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of human rights issues including extreme poverty, war, genocide, HIV/AIDS, the environment, universal primary education, cultural diversity, and social development through exposure to first-hand accounts

from people around the world who are making a positive impact in these areas and in their communities. Examining these critical issues at various levels – the global, local, and individual - will expose the complexity and interrelatedness of these issues.

The approach to building awareness and developing knowledge is thus threefold: 1) generate awareness about different issues and allow youth to explore those that interest them most, 2) draw parallels between different communities and different issues to highlight the interrelatedness of these communities and issues; 3) showcase positive community-based initiatives underway around the world.

Empower Youth through Skills Training and Creative Workshops

The GYA is unique because it goes beyond informative sessions to include hands-on workshops and skill development that allow youth to express themselves and participate in the Assembly in different ways. The GYA will offer a wide-range of workshops that use multi-media and creative approaches (art, film, simulation, scientific methods, music, dance, etc.) to ensure that youth leave the Assembly knowing that they possess the power, knowledge, talent, and skills to make positive change. Some youth might leave having learned that film is a powerful tool for change and how to use a camera; others might return to their communities having picked up tips on how to network, or with new found confidence, mentors, friends, and ideas about where to go for more information. Each youth will be empowered in different ways, which is why the GYA offers innovative and diverse approaches to participation using experienced facilitators.

Support Continued Dialogue and Youth Action

Follow-up to the GYA 2009 is one of the major Specific Targets for GYA 2009 listed below. The John Humphrey Centre is dedicated to offering youth a way to continue the dialogue started at the GYA and a framework for implementing the action plans that they will create during the conference.

We're Looking for YOU!

The GYA is seeking dynamic people to present workshops and creative breakouts that will support the various objectives of the Assembly and support the development of youth action. The workshops should fulfill the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** the workshop should either be an educational opportunity to expand knowledge on the global or local communities both theoretically and practically; or, it should be a leadership development opportunity, emphasizing practical applications.
- **Ingenuity:** the workshop may be presented in a variety of media such as dance, music, spoken word, or visual art that would appeal to a broad variety of youth.
- **Presentation:** all presentations should be culturally relevant and sensitive, as participants will be diverse in background.

Guidelines for Proposal Submissions

Please note that only completed submissions will be considered. If submitted electronically, it must be in a PDF format. If faxed, a return fax number is required. Please submit the following documents:

1. Cover Letter (see appendix A)
2. A 250 word biography
3. Abstract of Proposal
4. Proposal Requirements Submission Guidelines (see appendix B)

Please submit to:
Email: programs@youthassembly.ca
Fax: 780.454.1519

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 31 March 2009
NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE: 15 April 2009