

World E-News September 2013



empowering young people
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WORLD YMCA NEWS

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YMCA World Challenge 2014

- September 20, 2013



A celebration like none the world had ever seen.

You can find below this letter in pdf format in: Portuguese, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic:

> [Letter on the YMCA World Challenge in :
English, Portuguese, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic](#)

The World Alliance of YMCAs is delighted to send you more information about the YMCA World Challenge 2014 after the first announcement last June.

Once again, we will demonstrate the relevance of the YMCA to itself and to the World as part of the NEW WAY strategic plan and its emphasis on Youth Empowerment.

Following the success of the last edition, we want now to move a step further doing it bigger and better.

This is an invitation for millions people to get involved and have fun, whilst helping the YMCA to send a strong message of unity and impact to the world and its leaders by making visible the mobilization power that we have as a social movement.

The challenge in 2014 is to invite our communities to join a worldwide YMCA Celebration of our activities with focus on youth empowerment and, at the same time, give strength to a

global statement that will support young people to be heard in their concerns at all levels.

How are we going to do that?

By collecting signatures in support of an important, yet simple, statement!

The challenge will take place in a very special moment to our movement as in 2014 we celebrate 170 years of existence, we have a World Council and we will be in the midst of implementing the One Million Voices Research. In fact, the YMCA World Challenge will be the perfect way to prepare the arena for the launch of the results of our collective research effort in 2015.

The Goals of the World YMCA Challenge are:

- To celebrate the daily life changing impact of the YMCA in local communities and our role in empowering/developing people;
- For the movement to learn how to better use its collective potential;
- To influence ongoing local, national and global processes of policy development and for it to take into account the need of listening to young people;
- To raise awareness and visibility of the YMCA worldwide;
- To fundraise collectively and support our work at all levels and its change model of SPACE | TRANSFORMATION | IMPACT.

Opportunities:

The YMCA World Challenge 2014 is a great opportunity for your YMCA to develop public relations activities with the local media and your community.

Why get involved?

- You can profile your YMCA as a lively and international youth organization;
- You can promote your YMCAs as part of a world family that, together, will work to establish a massive mobilization of people;
- You can invite potential new members/participants to take part in the activities;
- You can invite community leaders, government representatives, and famous

personalities and develop new relationships

Please study the materials in pdf version below.

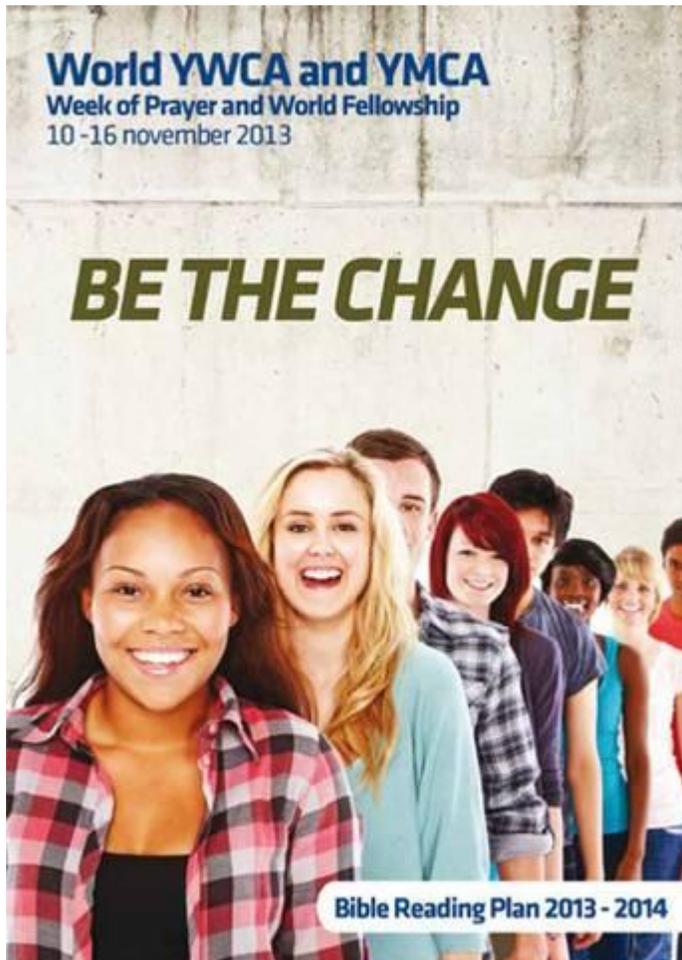
We kindly ask you to confirm if your national movement is on board and indicate the focal person for us to liaise with by October 10th. Please send your e-mail to : challenge@ymca.int

Warm greetings,

**Johan Vilhelm Eltvik
Secretary General**

**Romulo Dantas
Executive Secretary for Youth Empowerment and Communications**

YMCA/YWCA Week of Prayer



The Week of Prayer starts on the 2nd Sunday of November, and runs up to, and including, the following Saturday.

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer is "Be the Change" and it will take place from November 10 to 16.

Peace Day is on the Saturday at the end of that week.

Dates for 2013 - Sunday 10th Nov.- Saturday 16th Nov. 2013

World YMCA/YWCA Week Prayer 2013

Peace Poster 2013



You can download further below a high resolution of the Peace Poster in jpeg format in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Should you want a "blank" version (without text) of the Peace Poster, because you want to write the theme in your own language. Please [contact us](#), we will send you a sample.

> [Peace poster: English](#)

> [Peace poster: French](#)

> [Peace poster: Spanish](#)

> [Peace poster: Portuguese](#)

Webinar Session: Plusone Mentoring October 8, 2013 15h30 - (CET) - Geneva Time

- August 29, 2013



Plusone mentoring is a programme developed and delivered by YMCA in Scotland that engages young people aged 8-14 years who are causing concern to colleagues in justice, police, education or social work and who are close to entering the criminal justice system.

As a last chance they are referred to plusone where YMCA provides them with a trained volunteer mentor based in the community who supports them over the period of at least a year to revisit their direction of travel so that they can achieve their full potential in life.

In any one community one youth worker co-ordinates 20 volunteer mentors and works together with schools and families and other partners to best support the child's journey. The mentor engages in activities with the young person building a trusted relationship and guiding and supporting them in their choices and their opportunities.

The programme has won several national UK awards and is being replicated across Scotland. It is also being delivered by several non YMCA youth organisations. It has been externally evaluated showing that 86% of participants significantly changed their behaviour and attitudes.

The model is one that is easily transferable to other cultures with minor adaptations. YMCA Scotland have written a detailed programme manual, provide all the branding and guidance required including a busy web portal where you can access all the

materials and paperwork you need to run a programme. YMCA Scotland is offering a franchise to run the programme to other YMCA movements where there is demand for an effective intervention with vulnerable young people.

There is a large amount of evidence and evaluation available for interested YMCAs to present to their partners and funders to demonstrate that the approach works. There is a strong evidence base for the programme and partners in police, education and justice in Scotland are very enthusiastic to offer the programme to every local authority.

To sign up, contact [romulo\(at\)ymca.int](mailto:romulo(at)ymca.int) Informing name and YMCA of origin.

Terrorist attacks in Kenya and Pakistan

- September 23, 2013

The World Alliance has been in contact with Jared Musima, National General Secretary in Kenya YMCA, Carlos Sanvee, General Secretary in Africa Alliance of YMCAs, based in Nairobi and James Ekow Rhule, President in Africa Alliance of YMCAs and with Samuel Pervez, National General Secretary in Pakistan YMCA to express our condolences and solidarity with the victims, their families and the societies hit by horrific and very violent terrorist attacks on Saturday and Sunday.

At least 70 people were brutally killed in each of the two attacks in Nairobi and in Peshawar and hundreds of people are seriously injured. In Kenya hostages are still being held and the attacks are not over.

We have shared with our YMCA friends in Kenya and in Pakistan our deeply felt condolences with the victims and their families and our solidarity with the societies and people so brutally hit by meaningless violence and death.

To all YMCA friends around the globe we appeal that you will keep the victims and the people of these countries in your thoughts and prayers for the next days.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik
Secretary General - World Alliance of YMCAs

Updates from Kenya and Pakistan - 24 Sept. 2013

Kenya

Thank you for condolences and prayers. We hoping that our security forces will be able to deal with situation and put everything under control so that we start enjoying the peace and tranquility that we continued to enjoy in Kenya. God will answer our prayers. We await for further information on the rescue operations and we will be able to share.

All the best.

Jared Musima, General Secretary - Kenya

Pakistan

Sad news from Pakistan

In recent years Pakistan had been much in news for supporting the war on terror, and had been on frontline to face the wrath of the terrorists. In the latest, a Church in Peshawar had been attacked by the terrorists with a twin suicide bombing that took 83 precious lives of the faithful and with more than 165 injured in the Church at the conclusion of a service where hundreds of worshippers were coming out.

The blasts were so powerful that their boom echoed even in the suburbs of the Peshawar city. There was bloodstains on the walls and floor of the Church, whose windows had been ripped apart by the blast as the injured cried and screamed amid scattered body parts of the dead, many were injured including women and children. The ambulances arrived and started shifting the injured and the dead to nearby hospitals.

Many are still in critical conditions. Among all those who lost their near and dear ones was one young boy of 14 years who lost all his 6 family members and was now left alone to face the world challenges, there are so many others like him. Arrangements for the funeral of the blast victims were held at St. John's Cathedral Church. After the attack on the Church, Christians all over Pakistan continue to protest against the attack.

It was decided by all the Churches and Christian organizations including the YMCA, that a 3 day mourning be observed.

YMCA was asked by the City District Government to invite the all the Bishops to participate in the meeting with Government officials to review and enhance the security arrangements of the Christian Buildings in the city, in view of the Peshawar Church attack. It was attended by the Catholic, Anglican Bishops and the Dean of Lahore Cathedral, in the meeting Peshawar Church blast was strongly condemned in which many innocent lost their lives.

In the end I wish to thank all those who stood by us in this time of grief with emails, messages, phone calls and their Prayers which were a big support for us in this shock. And I wish to request to please continue to Pray for the Christians in Pakistan.

With best regards.

Samuel Pervez, General Secretary - Pakistan