



## **Board Member Role Description**

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When becoming a member of YWCA Ireland National Board you become the Director of a registered charity that aims to empower women in their leadership, Christian faith and human rights. Together with your colleagues on the Board you will be responsible for ensuring the affairs of the charity are conducted legally and properly. Support and guidance will be given to help you learn and exercise your role. As well as taking an active interest in the life of YWCA Ireland there are also opportunities to serve and influence the YWCA Movement at a regional, national and international level.

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

With the assistance of the Senior Management Team and appropriate professional advisors;

- To ensure that the Association complies with regulatory and statutory requirements.
- To ensure that the properties, assets and funds of YWCA Ireland are properly managed and protected. Board members should understand that they are collectively responsible for the financial management of YWCA Ireland.
- Ensure YWCA Ireland pursues its charitable objects as defined in the governing document.

### **Leadership**

- To ensure that the Christian ethos of the Movement is evident in the life and work of YWCA Ireland.
- Act fairly and in accordance with good employment and equal opportunities principles in making decisions affecting the appointment, recruitment, professional development, appraisal, remuneration and discipline of the General Secretary
- The Board has a responsibility to develop and ensure the maintenance of a properly constituted, balanced and competent Board, including providing clear procedures for selection, election, training, retirement and, if necessary, removal of Directors.

### **Strategic Direction**

- Formulate and review regularly, with the help of Senior Management, YWCA Ireland's vision, values and strategy, as well as policies for their fulfilment.
- To work with the Senior Management Team in developing and agreeing a strategic plans.

- To monitor progress through the Board of Directors committees and monitor annual plans, both against an agreed reporting structure.

**Time Commitments**

- Board members are expected to attend all Board meetings, prepare and contribute appropriately and effectively.

**Training**

- There will be opportunities to participate in periodic training and to stay abreast of good practice.
- To attend new member induction.

**Person Specification**

The ideal candidate will be passionate about YWCA Ireland’s vision, mission and values and be committed to fulfilling our Christian aims and purposes. They will be able to dedicate the necessary time to this essential, voluntary role in our organisation.

**Skills, Knowledge and Experience:**

To be prepared to use skills, knowledge, experience and insights for the good of the Movement. It is desirable for Board Members to have skills, knowledge and experience in at least one of the following areas:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strategic leadership</li> <li>● Governance</li> <li>● Gender Equality and Human Rights</li> <li>● Community links and involvement</li> <li>● Financial management</li> <li>● Treasury management</li> <li>● Fundraising</li> <li>● Health and safety</li> <li>● Human Resources (including volunteer recruitment)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Legal practice</li> <li>● Marketing and Public Relations</li> <li>● Programmes or operations similar to YWCA Ireland’s activities i.e. activities that empower women in their leadership, Christian faith and human rights</li> <li>● Spiritual development</li> <li>● Voluntary sector</li> </ul>
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**Benefits**

- Opportunity to contribute to the work of the world’s largest women’s organisation
- Opportunities to travel and engage with the YWCA work regionally and internationally
- Potential to enhance job and career prospects
- Engage with a network of like-minded people passionate about gender equality and issues affecting women, faith and human rights

## Background & Useful Information

### Organisational Overview

YWCA Ireland (Young Women's Christian Association of Ireland) is a registered charity that seeks to empower women in their leadership, Christian faith and human rights. Established in 1875, YWCA Ireland is one of the oldest women's organisations on the island of Ireland.

YWCA Ireland specialises in the provision of quality, affordable accommodation for students and groups as well as engagement and development activities that empower women.

YWCA Ireland is a member of the World YWCA and subscribes to the World Movement Global Goal;

*By 2035, 100 million young women and girls will transform power structures to create justice, gender equality and a world without violence and war; leading a sustainable YWCA movement, inclusive of all women.*

### Statement of Faith

YWCA Ireland's **Statement of Faith** is at the heart of what we do and why we do it. It tells people what we believe about God and the Bible.

1. Belief in the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. Belief in the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, His virgin birth, atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension and His personal coming again.
3. Belief that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the divinely inspired Word of God and the final authority in all matters of doctrine and practice.
4. Belief in the fact that all have sinned and in the efficacy of the atonement and in justification by Faith.
5. Belief that the Christian life is one of witness to our Lord Jesus Christ and of service to all.
6. The Association is interdenominational and evangelical.

### Additional Information about the National Board

- The YWCA Board is comprised of diversity of Christian women. Read the bios of our current board members [here](#) Men are involved in other aspects of YWCA Ireland's work but the board is comprised solely of women.
- The Board has a set requirement for maintaining a youth competent, comprising of 25% of the board. Youth is defined as young women who are 30 or under at the time they begin serving on the board and/or when they renew their term.
- The Board of YWCA Ireland is a governance board and does not manage the day to day operations of YWCA centres.

- There is a distinction between the role of the Board and Senior Management. The Board make decisions collectively.
- The Board has a President, Vice President and a Treasurer. Currently the President and Vice President serve as co – President's.
- A term of service is 3 years

### **Meetings**

- The YWCA National Board meets 5 times a year (4 board meetings and the Annual General Meeting). Meetings are generally on a Saturday morning with the location rotating around our local centres (Dublin, Greystones, Newcastle, Monaghan, and Lisburn).
- Board meetings are scheduled 12 months in advance.
- The Board do not meet in July or August.
- From time to time the board may meet for special days e.g. retreats, planning days etc.

### **Application**

To apply for this position download and complete the [application form](#).

***Application deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup> 2019***

