

YOUNG FEMINIST SUMMER CAMP

AGORA

 EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES

4-8 SEPTEMBER 2023
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



Call for applications for AGORA 2023

EWL Young Feminist Summer Camp 2023

WHO ARE WE?

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the largest European umbrella network of women's associations in Europe, representing the diversity of women and girls in Europe. Currently, the EWL has **32 national coordination organisations** in countries within the EU, in candidate countries, former EU Member States and in the European Free Trade Association, as well as 17 European-wide members, representing a total of more than 2,000 women's organisations in Europe. Together with our members, we campaign for [a feminist Europe](#) which promotes women's rights and equality between women and men in the European Union. The EWL envisions a society in which women's contribution to all aspects of life is recognised, rewarded and celebrated - in leadership, in care and in production; where all women have self-confidence, freedom of choice, and freedom from violence and exploitation; and no woman or girl is left behind. Read more about vision and our work at www.womenlobby.org. **AGORA has been connecting young women from across Europe for several years through this annual event and we are now seeking applications from young feminists for AGORA 2023. Find out more about [our previous editions of Agora](#).**

Join the Young Feminist AGORA?

The AGORA is an EWL programme that brings young feminists from all over Europe to Brussels for a 5-day gathering to discuss and explore feminism and learn from each other. Our next AGORA will take place from 4-8 September 2023 and we are now looking for candidates to take part. The programme is open to any **young women aged between 18 and 30** (at the time of the AGORA) who are keen to connect with other young feminists. Through a 5-day participatory summer camp, we aim to create a space for young women to exchange, bridge gaps, inspire and be inspired, strengthen connections, reinforce skills and hear the voices of other young feminists. Our objective is to empower young women feminists in Europe to be activist leaders in a changing world by giving them a space to share experience, knowledge and ideas.

“We came from different places, with different backgrounds, but met in the similar experiences that brought us to the identity of feminists. It has been a very unique experience to live the space that was so full of solidarity, power, emotions and safety. (AGORA 2017 alumna).

“Honestly life changing. I came back not only inspired, but with a new found sense of personal confidence, conviction in my feminist beliefs and self-belief itself in what I had to say and what I had to bring the world. I felt an enormous sense of solidarity too from the friends I made.” (AGORA 2017 alumna)

IS AGORA FOR YOU?

- Are you keen to connect with a diverse group of young feminists from across Europe?
- Are you interested in strengthening your knowledge and skills to advocate for women’s rights and gender equality and against violence against women?
- Are you keen to find out what young feminists are doing against inequality across Europe, and how you could work together?
- Are you keen to engage in highly participatory learning processes and willing to learn more about yourself, your talents and your work in this world?
- Do you want to be part of shaping future feminist strategies and campaigns in Europe?
- Do you agree with the [values and mission](#) of the European Women’s Lobby?

Do you fit the criteria?

- ✓ Are you a feminist woman **between 18 and 30 years old (at the time of the camp)**?
- ✓ Do you have **experience in activism related to gender equality/women’s rights**?
- ✓ Do you currently live in the **European Union**?
- ✓ Do you have a **good level of English (B2)**?

As an intersectional feminist organisation, we are committed to organising a summer camp that reflects and includes experiences that represent Europe in all of its diversity. **As such, women of colour and from ethnic minority groups, women with disabilities, from the LGBTQI community and coming from marginalised groups are especially encouraged to apply.**

HOW TO APPLY

All interested candidates can apply using our online application form: [here](#).

In the application form, we want to hear about your commitment to feminist activism and women's rights, whether through general activism, volunteering or work experience, academia or any other activities. We are looking for passionate and dedicated young feminists with different experiences and backgrounds.

Deadline for applications: 23 July 2023, midnight.

What is AGORA?

As a new generation of young feminists rises to the challenge of confronting the social, economic and political turbulence of the last years, the EWL wants to support and nourish these leaders and activists, give them more visibility, and strengthen the connections between them and with EWL itself. We see the AGORA project as vital to strengthening and expanding the European feminist movement.

Through the AGORA we aim to:

- Reconnect and reinforce young European women's activism
- Bring together young feminists from different backgrounds and with different experiences, to learn from each other and create connections
- Set up a creative space for young feminist change agents to develop their activism
- Build solidarity, empower young feminist activists and work together across borders to make feminism more inclusive and amplify the voices of feminist networks in Europe
- Explore the concept of feminist leadership and power
- Enable the EWL to understand better the interests, needs and activities of young feminists in Europe and bring these more into the centre of EWL's future strategy and actions.

The programme

During 5 days, we set up an inclusive space for participants to exchange, to inspire and to reinforce skills through workshops, and expertise sharing, facilitated by EWL and partners. We also encourage participants to share their knowledge through participant-led workshops and open sessions, and there will be some workshops led by EWL Policy and Campaigns staff. The AGORA space is the participants' space, guided by the facilitators. There is also of course time for the young women to relax and socialise over dinners, lunches and drinks throughout the programme.

Method:

AGORA uses innovative participatory methodologies based on a transformative learning process, which is both about learning on a personal, individual level, as well as on an organisational/societal and systems level. The tools used throughout the programme offer a space for co-creation, dialogue, shared reflection, and open learning. The aim is to create a safe and creative feminist space for exploring issues together and to build solidarity.

Please note that the AGORA programme focuses on sharing knowledge, co-creating and exploring issues together, and it is not an academic summer school or study visit. We aim to create a safe and supportive space for everyone.

This is a residential programme and all the sessions and times together matter greatly so we expect all selected participants to be present for all the sessions and the organised dinners

(there will be some free time too). This includes all participants who live in Brussels. This means you must be able to commit to the full programme from start to finish, which will **start in the afternoon on 4 September in central Brussels and end around lunchtime on 8 September 2023.**

The venues

Participants will stay at [Motel One](#), a fully accessible hotel located in the heart of Brussels. The hotel is located ten minutes walking distance to the venue.

The programme sessions will all take place at the [Amazonie](#). There will be a number of activities organised including dinners with opportunities to network with EWL staff and some of our allies.

We will make every effort to ensure that all activities and venues are as inclusive and accessible as possible and will work with participants to understand and accommodate any special needs. Participants who may have special needs will be contacted by EWL staff beforehand to understand what support is needed during the whole programme.

The selection process

There are only 40 places. The selection will be made by EWL, based on the application forms and on the criteria above. The motivation and experience in feminist activism or campaigns for gender equality and women's rights will be deciding factors, as well participants' experience of diversity. **Our aim is to bring together a group of young feminists from diverse backgrounds, geographical regions and with different levels of experiences in feminism and activism.**

Please note that as a network organisation, we are reserving about **20 places** for candidates who are affiliated and supported by [EWL members](#). This is to ensure that there is a direct and sustainable link with EWL and its members. For participants who are not yet linked to our members, we will ensure there is connection with relevant members before the AGORA.

We aim to inform all successful candidates by 28 July 2023. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide feedback on applications to unsuccessful candidates.

Financial contribution

The EWL will cover the costs of the programme for participants while in Brussels, including accommodation and all the meals. If you are selected, you will be expected to organise your own travel to Brussels. The EWL, following the guidelines of the European Commission, will reimburse participants of their travel costs based on their distance from Brussels. As a result, some participants might be required to cover a portion of their travel costs. We will not exclude anyone on the basis of their ability to pay. If you are selected, we will provide more information about how to apply for reimbursements.

For every AGORA, we also **ask participants to contribute to a small solidarity fund** by making a donation to the EWL. We want to be sure that no one will be excluded from participation for financial reasons (including travel costs) but as we do not have enough funding to cover the full participation costs for everyone (venue of the event, accommodation, catering, speakers, the Staff and material), we ask for a financial contribution. This supports us to run the whole programme and have travel bursaries for a number of participants. In the application form, we ask you to indicate your level of voluntary contribution but please be 100% assured that **the amount you can contribute will not in any way impact on the selection process.**

Application form

You need to complete the application online using this google form: [here](#).

We include below the questions we ask you to respond to in the [online application form](#) - we provide you the list of questions in case you prefer preparing the answers in advance in a separate document, and then copying them over in the form when you are ready. **Deadline for application is 23 July 2023, midnight (CET).**

Personal information

Questions around your name, age, country and place of residence, nationality, email, language skills, social media used, etc. These responses will be dealt with confidentiality.

EWL Members

Are you affiliated and supported by one of EWL's member organisation? 20 spots will be reserved for candidates who are affiliated or supported by one of EWL member organisations. If you are applying through one of our members, they will need to confirm with us via email that they are supporting your application.

Name of contact person at the EWL member organisation you are affiliated to?

Biography (maximum 1300 characters)

1. Please explain your relevant experience for the AGORA - personal, professional, academic and/or other.

Commitment to Women's Rights/ Gender Equality (maximum 1300 characters)

2. Please indicate any relevant experience or expertise in relation to women's rights and gender equality. Please highlight particularly the experience you have in feminist organisation or activism, and describe the action(s) you have been involved in, including what inspired you to get involved and what role you played.

Motivation to participate in the Agora

3. Why do you want to participate in the EWL AGORA 2023? Please explain your motivation for applying and why this is relevant for you at this time. (maximum 1300 characters)

4. How will you make use of what you learn and the connections you make in your work on women's rights after AGORA? (maximum 1300 characters)

5. What do you think the main priorities should be and what are your expectations of the feminist movement today in Europe? (maximum 1300 characters)

Your Wishes, Skills and Knowledge

In order to design a programme that is relevant for the participants, we would like to know the following:

6. Are there specific issues or skills that you would like to learn more about during AGORA? (maximum 500 characters)

7. Do you have any experience or knowledge of working to combat sexual exploitation? If yes, please explain. (maximum 500 characters)

8. Would you be interested in leading a workshop-session during the summer camp? If yes, on what theme? Note that if selected, we will be in touch with you to expand on the proposed workshop. (maximum 500 characters)

Financial contribution

Could you indicate the level of participation fee that you would be able to contribute? The amount will NOT impact in any way on the selection process.

*The EWL has minimal funding to help us organise this programme and for every AGORA, we **ask participants to contribute to a small solidarity fund** by making a donation to the EWL. We want to make sure that no one is excluded from participating in AGORA for financial reasons (such as travel costs) but as we do not have enough funding to cover the full participation costs for everyone (venue of the event, accommodation, catering, speakers, the Staff and material), we ask for a financial contribution from participants. This supports us to pay for some participants' travel costs and cover a small part of the programme costs.*

- Other:
- 25 euros
- 50 euros
- 100 euros
- 150 euros
- 200 euros
- 300 euros
- 500 euros