



# World YWCA

## YWCA World Service Council Celebrates

### World YWCA Day – April 24, 2020

#### April 13, 2020

Greetings from your Officers! We hope that each of you is staying healthy and are coping with the pandemic as well as can be expected. These are difficult times for so many in our communities who have the least of resources to manage.

This memo comes to you with suggestions on how we in the World Service Council can celebrate World YWCA Day, Friday April 24, 2020. We had hoped to build on the rich experiences of the five gatherings organized on April 24 last year by our members. However, organizing any group meetings is impossible and not suggested this year and so we have some other suggestions for you. You will find attached to this memo, an interesting graphic that shows the kind of work that YWCAs around the world are doing. Use [this as a backdrop](#) for starting some interesting conversations on social media such as Facebook, or in emails to friends about what the World YWCA is doing.

1. Visit the World YWCA website [www.worldywca.org](http://www.worldywca.org) and read updates about what YWCAs around the world are doing to help women, girls and families to cope, to develop strategies, and to lead.
2. Download the [World YWCA Day Toolkit](#) which gives background and history of this special day to celebrate our worldwide work more than 100 national member associations and hundreds of local YWCAs.
3. If you are tech savvy, check out the toolkit's suggestions for creating your own space for a discussion, and invite some of your intergenerational friends and colleagues to join you in exploring worldwide issues, including some that the Commission on the Status of Women would have been discussing in March were the CSW meeting not canceled because of the pandemic or discuss the impact of the pandemic on women around you.
4. If you are not a Facebook user, you might consider joining Facebook and connect to the [YWCA World Service Council](#) and [World YWCA](#) pages by liking them.
5. On the World YWCA Facebook page, you can watch the [message](#) from Casey Harden, General Secretary, as she and all the World YWCA staff work from home. In the video,

- Casey quotes Vera Cushman, a founding member of the World Service Council, and gives a thank you to the World Service Council for its support of the World YWCA over the century.
6. Many YWCA members around the World are Facebook users, so that you might be able to direct questions to YWCAs in other countries, and start a discussion about interesting work being done in different locations.
  7. The World YWCA will be initiating a [discussion forum](#) specifically for World YWCA Day on the SheSpeaks engagement platform. This will be a great opportunity to not only participate but also, read what some of these conversations with women and young women from around the world. You might want to start your own [discussion](#). If you do plan to do so, please write to [communications@worldywca.org](mailto:communications@worldywca.org) for support.
  8. We believe many of you have great stories around the World YWCA Day, stories of your engagement with YWCA, stories of how YWCAs have changed your life and lives of many. Consider this day as an opportunity to write them and get them published on the [SheSpeaks platform](#).
  9. If you have signed up and are on the World YWCA's Connectnet, start a conversation about your experiences in the YWCA in your community, or in the World Service Council, and why the World YWCA with more than 100 plus member YWCAs is important for women and girls. Or, if you have been to a World Council meeting, send greetings to others who attended that Council, and share memories about the highlights that you remember in that Council meeting.

**Remember as well that your Contribution this year is critical for the World YWCA. Please send your annual WSC donation now – and before June 30, 2020!**

You may send by mail: YWCA World Service Council, c/o YWCA USA, 1020 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, D.C. 20036. (Note the return envelope for your donation that was included with the recent mailing of the WSC Annual Report for 2019.)

Or you may donate online on the YWCA USA website. Click on the Donate Button at the top of the web page, and then click on the box "World Service Council".

Thank you and stay safe and well!

Your Officers: Deb Stock, Elaine Carlson, Tracy Yellen, Joelle Logue, Carole Markus and Mildred Morrison.