



YMCA

The YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) is one of the oldest and largest Movements for youth in the world.

It operates in 125 countries, and has over 45 million members worldwide, works to bring social justice and peace to young people and their communities, regardless of religion, race or culture.

History

In 1844 twelve young men led by George Williams founded the first YMCA in London, England. Their objective was the "improvement of the spiritual condition of the young men engaged in houses of business, by the formation of Bible classes, family and social prayer meetings, mutual improvement societies, or any other spiritual agency. Now it's based in Geneva, Switzerland.

GOALS: promotes

- Education & Training
- Climate Change
- Health & HIV/AIDS Prevention
- Inter-faith dialogue
- Global citizenship for all to improve life in community by developing body, mind and spirit
- Food Security
- Migration
- Human Rights Education
- Emergency Response to several emergency situations including: Japan (2011), Haiti (2010)
- Peace-building
- Young people in order to build a "human community of justice with love, peace and reconciliation for the fullness of life for all creation"

Principles:

- sharing the good news of Jesus Christ
- empowering young people and working towards an equitable society
- promoting the rights of women and upholding the rights of children
- fostering (favorire) dialogue and partnership between people of different faiths and ideologies
- committing to work in solidarity with ethnic minorities
- protecting the earth's resources for coming generations
- providing immediate assistance to affected communities such as food, medicine, education

The Global YMCA Movement advocates on **Youth Empowerment** for:

- **Decision-Making:** Youth participation and leadership in all levels of society
- **Employment:** Training opportunities and Entrepreneurship
- **Peace and Reconciliation:** Promotion of respect for differences and dialogue.