

Motivation letter

Advisory Council on Youth: Carly Walker-Dawson, IFM-SEI

Dear friends, it is a pleasure to be nominated by the International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational International (IFM-SEI) as a candidate for the Advisory Council on Youth. I look forward to the opportunity to work together with other youth movements and young decision-makers to put our ideals of democracy and youth participation into practice

MY MOTIVATION

I firmly believe that children and young people are essential stakeholders for the promotion of human rights, democracy, peace and cooperation. It is my conviction that children and young people should be actively involved in all decision-making processes, and that children and young people are competent enough to make decisions and have valid opinions on global issues as well as more local issues affecting them more directly.

Young people are the ones mostly affected by poverty, unemployment and forced displacement and as victims of violence and social exclusion. Despite this, young people are disproportionately under-represented in decision-making in the world at large and even sometimes within our own youth movements. Decisions concerning young people needs to be taken with their full and active participation if these trends are to be reversed.

I am eager to contribute to the important work the Advisory Council in order to move the process of higher representation of young people in decision-making bodies and youth mainstreaming further in the right direction. My experience as a trainer and educator over the last 10 years means that I have the lived experience of human rights education. The combination of a solid organisational background and theory around non-formal education enables me to apply both my practical experience and theoretical perspective when developing strategies for policy work with the Advisory Council. I would also like to bring to the table the standpoints and experience of a diverse range of youth, from across Europe, particularly those that don't often have a voice. I would like to work to ensure that all youth organisations are empowered and to have access to the programmes of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.



I believe that my background and expertise, together with the support and backing of IFM-SEI, could be an asset to the Advisory Council. I am highly motivated to draw on my experience within the fields of human rights education, empowerment of young people and international policy work to promote the European Youth Forum's policy and priorities within the Advisory Council. The priorities of IFM-SEI are closely aligned to those of the Advisory Council 2018-19, therefore I feel we could contribute a great deal to this mandate in particular.

CONTACT

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MY EXPERIENCE

Council of Europe and Youth Department

- Contributor to the Council of Europe expert group on non-formal education - quality standards in non-formal education and the development of a long-term training of trainers
- Course Director in two EYC study sessions and on training teams for other study sessions
- Participant in the (Re)mix seminar of the EYF on pilot project and work plan applications
- Writing, management and reporting of EYF funding bids for 2 INYGOS: thematic work plans, international activities and structural grants

Access to rights

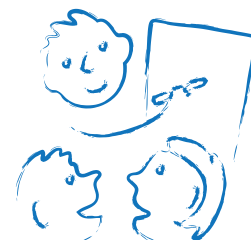
- IFM-SEI representative on the Children's Rights Action Group (CRAG)
- Delivered training courses on children's rights in relation to disability and access, sexual and gender diversity and child refugees
- Training on Compasito, the Council of Europe's manual for human rights education with children
- Development and editorial of Rainbow Resources (Compasito Companion), a handbook on sexuality and gender education in relation to children's rights
- Delivery of training sessions and a study session on Rainbow Resources

Youth participation and youth work

- Local group leader for 15 years working with children and young people aged 6-15
- CooperAction project leader – project to create locally-delivered cooperatives and promote education on cooperatives
- Delivered Training of Trainers and Future Leaders training courses for youth workers
- Member of steering group/programme team for 3 large-scale international youth festivals with child and youth participation at the heart
- Coordination of the GOLD and Camp CEO for Girlguiding UK - young women's participation programmes

Inclusive and peaceful societies

- IFM-SEI Rainbow Network Coordinator 2009-13 - coordinating educational and campaign work on sexuality and gender
- Coordinator of the IFM-SEI gender equality working group 2013-16
- Delivery of the Equality4u campaign event for British Youth Council (working groups for LGBTQIA youth, young women, disabled young people and religious youth)
- Creation of IFM-SEI Gender Equality Handbook



MY INTERESTS - ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. Involvement in the development and delivery of the World Forum for Democracy
2. Involvement in the development and delivery of INGOs conference
3. Representative on the topic of innovative forms of youth participation
4. Representative on the topic of women's and girls' participation in decision-making and gender mainstreaming



MY BACKGROUND

I have been involved in youth-led organisations since I was a child and I started volunteering as a group leader at the age of 13. I started my international work at 15 years old when I was elected to the steering group of an international festival. I have **solid experience at all levels of youth work** from the grassroots to the regional, national and global level. I have been engaged and involved in youth-led organisations as a beneficiary, volunteer, elected representative and now as an employee.

I was elected as the **Secretary General of IFM-SEI** in August 2016. I am responsible for the management of all aspects of the organisation – financial, strategic and operational – as well as political representation. A large part of my role is the conception, financing, delivery and reporting of international non-formal education projects. In the past I worked for Girlguiding UK and IUSY in **international project management roles**.

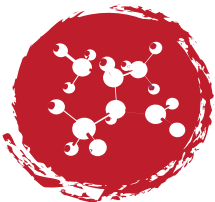
I have a strong **background in training** and I have been a member of training networks for a number of organisations or platforms, as well as doing freelance training. My main areas of focus are on the topics of inclusion (LGBTQIA, feminism, accessibility), anti-discrimination, non-formal education, children's rights and sexual health.

I have been active in both the **NYC and INYGO pillars of the Youth Forum**. I am the former Vice Chair of British Youth Council, responsible for participation and development, as well as previously being on the board of IFM-SEI and Woodcraft Folk (IFM-SEI's UK organisation). I also used to be employed as IUSY as a Project Officer and International Events Coordinator of Girlguiding UK. These experiences have given me solid experience in **policy work, representation and networking**. I believe that these competences could benefit the Advisory Council on Youth and European Youth Forum if they were to elect me as one of their representatives.

MY COMMITMENTS



1. Represent the needs and demands of youth organisations specifically in reference to quality non-formal education, child and youth participation, children's rights and inclusion



2. Ensure the voices of minority and marginalised groups are heard within the Advisory Council



3. Keep other youth organisations updated through face-to-face and virtual meetings, social media updates and video reports



4. Actively participate to the Advisory Council, commit to my responsibilities and follow up on work between meetings

