

IFM-SEI

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Dear European Youth Forum Member Organisations,

IFM-SEI motivation letter: candidature for Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth

International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational International (IFM-SEI) is pleased to put forward Carly Walker-Dawson as our candidate for the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth for the mandate 2018-19.

Motivation, vision and contribution

IFM-SEI is the international umbrella of non-formal educational youth movements whose work is guided by the socialist principles of equality, democracy, solidarity, peace, cooperation, sustainability, social justice and internationalism. We bring together 50 movements from all over the world. We work together to empower children and young people to take an active role in society and fight for their rights and give them the space to develop their own opinions about the world. To reach this goal, we organise a variety of activities including seminars, training courses, international festivals and conferences.

IFM-SEI as an organisation can offer expertise in, experience of and commitment to the fields of children's rights, social inclusion, intercultural dialogue, democracy, anti-discrimination and conflict resolution, as well as our work to increase the participation of young people at all levels of society. As well as these priority areas, which overlap with the priorities of the Council of Europe, we have vast experience in non-formal education theory and practice. Quality and inclusive non-formal education is important to us and we would like to lead on this dialogue within the Advisory Council. Furthermore, we have direct and substantial contact with children and young people from all over Europe and the world, thus we have close contact with the grassroots, which may represent a valuable asset for the Council of Europe.

Our vision for the Advisory Council is for young people of all ages to be actively involved in decision-making, with a wide range of organisations being represented and contributing to the policy development and decision-making processes of the body. We are pleased that the 2018-19 priorities are so closely aligned to the IFM-SEI strategic work plan 2016-19 and we look forward to the possibility of putting these into practice.

Organisational experience with the Council of Europe and the Youth Department

IFM-SEI has a long history of good cooperation with the Council of Europe Youth Department. We consistently deliver study sessions and thematic work plans on an annual basis in partnership with the European Youth Foundation and European Youth Centres. In the past years we have delivered study sessions on the topics of child refugees, disability and inclusion, and tackling violence towards children and youth. Our work plans have focused on topics such as the importance of group work, peace education and the prevention of sexual violence. We also have long-term experience working with EYF structural grants.



IFM-SEI sat on the development team for the Council of Europe Charter on HRE/EDC (Human Rights Education/Education for Democratic Citizenship), in particular advising them on the preparation of the child-friendly version of the charter. We are also in the expert group preparing the next HRE/EDC conference, taking place in June 2017. IFM-SEI is the only youth organisation involved in this process, representing the youth and non-formal education sector. We have also joined expert meetings on non-formal education and have contributed to discussions around quality standards and good practice in non-formal education.

Experience with priority 1: Access to rights

IFM-SEI is a children's rights movement and we are a global player in child and youth rights. Through peer education, we aim to educate children and young people about their rights and support them to ensure they are respected. Children's rights is one of our thematic areas in our current strategic work plan 2016-19, as well as the previous work plan. We are active in the field of children's rights advocacy and we are a member of the Children's Rights Action Network (CRAG).

Human rights and children's rights education is cross-cutting through all of our educational work. Our projects on the access to rights include the [Charter for All](#) study session on human rights education and a [Compasito](#) training course, both delivered in partnership with the Council of Europe. For the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention of the Rights of a Child, we published a [UNCRC Anniversary education pack](#). Our upcoming work includes a consultation on children's rights advocacy and the creation of a strategic plan on children's rights advocacy.

We believe that organisations should take a critical rights-based approach that cross-cutting our campaign and educational work. It is the role of youth movements to take a strong stance against children's rights and human rights violations happening in society and we must feed into political debates and strongly criticise practices such as corporal punishment, child labour, homophobia and transphobia.

Experience with priority 2: Youth participation and youth work

Being child and youth led is the main characteristic that brings together IFM-SEI organisations. Children and young people are actively involved in our decision-making structures - active child and youth participation is a prerequisite of all member organisations - and we have a hard youth quota in our constitution. Many of our member organisations are recognised by external partners as experts in the field of child and youth participation.

We are currently delivering a two-year project called [On The Move](#), a global project on regional youth work in relation to refugees and migration. Another project is the [Partnerships for Participation](#) project on child participation, giving 10 global EVS volunteers working the opportunity with young people in local communities on the topic and the publication of a handbook. [Getting Out Getting Skills](#) is a global project on volunteering, non-formal education and outdoor education. We also delivered the [Peers Without Frontiers](#) project on peer education and the MDGs. Last year we undertook a thematic work plan, called [Group Matters](#), on the importance of local youth work. Our upcoming work includes a seminar on adultism and child participation with kids, the development of IFM-SEI child participation strategy and a growth project to support grassroots youth work.



We want to promote the active, meaningful and non-tokenistic participation of children and young people in decision-making on all levels within European Youth Forum member organisations and through the Council of Europe. It is our firm belief that children and young people are able to make decisions and have valid opinions on a wide variety of issues from a local to a global level but they need to be heard in society.

Experience with priority 3: Inclusive and peaceful societies

Inclusion is one of the main educational and campaigning focuses of IFM-SEI and the majority of our activities fit under this umbrella. The [All Together](#) and [All Together 2.0](#) strategies on the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities has been a main pillar of our work since 2007, aiming to include more young people with fewer opportunities in our activities and structures. The thematic areas of gender and sexuality, accessibility, migration and refugees and combating right-wing extremism are featured in our strategic work plan 2016-19. IFM-SEI has a Rainbow Network, Feminist Network, Migration Network and Accessibility Network to support our inclusion work.

We have many projects around the topics. At present we are delivering the [I Act](#) thematic work plan for the prevention of sexual violence using the bystander model. In the past year we have implemented a [Peace Education](#) thematic work plan, with seminars on peace education and conflict resolution and toolkit development. We also ran study sessions on the topic such as All In, on disability and inclusion with ENIL Youth and [Tackling the Culture of Violence](#) study session on violence towards children, both in cooperation with the Council of Europe. Our flagship resource is the [Rainbow Resources handbook](#) on sexuality and gender education and we also have published a [Gender equality handbook](#), [IFM-SEI inclusion workshop guide](#) and [All Together: Making Inclusion Happen](#) handbook. We have had a number of campaigns over the years particularly around sexual and gender diversity, and we co-deliver the annual Queer Easter on LGBTQIA rights with YES. Our future work includes producing a child-friendly documentary on children in conflict areas, a Middle East study visit, a 101 conflict and peace seminar for kids, a seminar on bodies and body positivity and an educational process on how to be an ally.


Quality representation

Our representative, if elected, is the current Secretary General of IFM-SEI. First and foremost, this means she will be able to dedicate the time and energy required of the position due to her working full-time for the organisation. She has a comprehensive overview of the organisational priorities and strategy as well as an in-depth insight into the wider youth sector through her representational role. She has worked alongside many other European Youth Forum organisations, therefore she is well placed to bring in the perspectives of other youth movements. Furthermore, she has experience in British Youth Council, as well as IFM-SEI, so she understands the structures, priorities and needs of NYCs as well as INYGs.

We thank you for taking the time to read about why we are putting forward a candidate for the Advisory Council on Youth and we encourage you to get in contact if you have any questions or thoughts.

Sylvia Siqueira Campos

Carly Walker-Dawson




IFM-SEI President

IFM-SEI Secretary General

