



**A Program of Empower Peace**

**Women2Women – America 2017  
International Leadership Program**

July 23 – August 1, 2017

Wheelock College

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

**STUDENT APPLICATION FORM**

**Conference Information**

The Women2Women International Leadership Program (W2W 2017) is a program of Empower Peace. W2W 2017 is an opportunity for young women ages 15-19 to participate in an educational cultural exchange. This year's program will be held at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. W2W 2017 will provide participants with the educational opportunity to learn, network and acquire leadership skills that will empower them to make a difference in their respective communities and countries. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet and develop friendships with their peers from around the world.

Over the past 12 years, more than 1,000 young women from over 60 countries have participated in the program since 2006. **APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017 AT 5:00 PM EST.**

**Women2Women – America 2017 International Leadership Program**

The Women2Women – America 2017 conference will focus on how you can “Claim Your Seat at the Table” and empower other young women to do the same. You will have the opportunity to learn about the current status of women and girls around the world, as well as the social and economic progress that is possible when women and girls have the opportunity to participate fully in every aspect of society. You will meet with leading figures tackling these challenges on an international scale, and develop your leadership skills so you can make a difference. Perhaps most importantly, you will be joining a lifelong, global network of young women who support each other and work together to contribute to positive change around the world.

*The Challenges*

Despite much progress, women and girls are still the most discriminated-against group in the world. Consider these facts:

- Of the 1 billion people living in absolute poverty around the world (unable to secure basic life necessities), 60% are women and girls.
- Women contribute 2/3 of the world's working hours, yet earn only 10% of the income.
- An extra year of primary school education boosts a girl's eventual wages by 10-20%. An extra year of secondary school adds 15-25%.
- There are 31 million girls of primary school age not in school. Of these, 17 million are expected never to enter school
- Worldwide, nearly 50% of all sexual assaults are against girls aged 15 years of younger.
- 1 in 3 girls will experience some form of violence in their lifetime.

- Around the world, 120 million girls under 20 have experienced forced sexual intercourse or some other form of sexual violence.
- Every year 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders. 80% of the victims are women. 50% of the victims are minors.
- 1 in 7 girls in the developing world will be married before her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Every minute of every day a pregnant woman dies from mostly preventable causes.
- Women earn 79 cents to every dollar earned by a man.

Unfortunately, there is *no* community in the world that is untouched by these issues. It's time to come together and make a difference.

### ***The Solutions***

While the statistics above are shocking, so too are the results when women and girls are able to participate fully in society. Women involved in the political, social, and economic life of their countries and communities are better-positioned to increase attention for women's rights. Simply providing women and girls with an education can lead to healthier families and children, less poverty and stronger national economies. Education also equips women with the knowledge and skills needed to realize their potential and protect themselves from harm. By participating in W2W 2017, you will learn how to claim your seat at the table and become part of the solution.

### **Schedule**

W2W 2017 will take place from Sunday, July 23, 2017 through Tuesday, August 1, 2017. July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> are considered travel days. **NOTE:** International participants may begin their travel to Boston as early as July 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you would like to see a copy of the previous year's schedule, please go to our website, [www.EPWomen2Women.org](http://www.EPWomen2Women.org).

The conference will include: team-building activities; seminars and workshops with prominent leaders doing important work in government, media, business, science and technology, and non-profit; leadership development exercises and skill-building; outreach events with other youth and community leaders; and cultural activities. **Participants are required to partake in all conference activities.**

### **Transportation/Visas**

*If you are coming from within the United States...*

- Empower Peace will provide all participants (other than those from the New England area – Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island) with round-trip transportation from an airport near their home to Boston's Logan International Airport. **All participants will be fully responsible for transportation to and from their local airport.**
- Empower Peace will all greet participants at Logan International Airport in Boston and bring them to the conference.
- Transportation for all conference activities will be arranged through Empower Peace.
- Participants from the New England area (Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island) must obtain their own transportation to and from the conference.
- Empower Peace **WILL NOT** accommodate any requests to extend a participant's stay in Boston or the US. **All participants must depart Boston on their scheduled flight from Logan International Airport.**

*If you are coming from outside the United States...*

- **If selected to attend W2W 2017, you must obtain your passport and secure a visa interview as soon as possible. Participants should look to apply for a (B-2) tourist visa.**
- Empower Peace will provide all participants with round-trip transportation from an airport near their home to Logan International Airport. **All participants will be fully responsible for transportation to and from the airport in their home country.**
- Empower Peace will provide necessary documentation to help secure a travel visa interview to travel to the US. International participants will receive an acceptance letter with all the details about where you will be staying and what Empower Peace will be providing.
- Transportation for all conference activities will be arranged through Empower Peace.
- Empower Peace **WILL NOT** accommodate any requests to extend a participant's stay in Boston or the United States. **All participants must depart Boston on their scheduled flight from Logan International Airport.**
- **Participants are responsible for obtaining their own travel and airport transit visas. Some participants may need to obtain an airport transit visa – a visa required to wait for a few hours at the airport's international transit area.**
- Empower Peace will greet all participants at Logan International Airport and bring them to the conference.

### **Housing/Meals**

- All participants will be housed in **dorms** at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA during the entire conference. Wheelock College is approximately 7 miles (about 11 km) from Logan International Airport. (Approximately 25 minutes drive)
- Students are expected to abide by all Empower Peace and Wheelock College dorm rules. Rules will be provided in check-in materials.
- Students will have at least one roommate from another delegation/country.
- Students are not allowed to switch roommates or rooms.
- Students will be living in an area shared by other Wheelock College students (non-conference participants).
- Bathrooms are shared.
- Empower Peace will provide all meals during the conference. **Halal food will be available on a limited basis. We will do our best to accommodate your needs.** Please indicate if you require Halal or kosher food. Please indicate if you have any food allergies (ie. gluten, nuts, etc.) in the application.

### **Health Insurance**

Empower Peace will provide all international participants with basic travel/health coverage. Participants will be responsible for any charges/co-pays associated with a medical visit. Coverage will begin on the day they travel to the United States and will end on the day they return home.

### **Financial Responsibilities**

#### **Conference Fees**

#### **Cost per participant: \$3,000 + airfare**

There are limited hardship scholarships available for qualified applicants who cannot afford the conference fee. We strongly encourage **ONLY** those candidates that are in need to apply for a scholarship. We encourage everyone to apply even if you cannot afford the conference fee.

### *Costs covered by Empower Peace*

- Food
- Lodging
- All conference materials
- All conference related activities and ground transportation
- All costs connected to speakers, and conference development and implementation
- Basic health coverage (for all international participants)

### *Costs covered by the participant (her family, and/or sponsoring agency)*

- **Air travel to and from the conference**
- Costs associated with securing passports
- Costs associated with securing visas – travel and airport transit (approximately \$160 USD)
- Transportation to and from airport in participant's home country/state
- Incidental costs
- Conference fee (if you have not received a scholarship or are not sponsored)
- Empower Peace will not cover costs associated with the travel (luggage fees, airport transit visas, travel visas or passport application process.)
- Health insurance deductible and or outstanding balances not covered by health insurance – should the participant require medical care or hospitalization

## **Application Requirements/Process**

Young women, between the ages of 15-19 as of July 1, 2017, in the United States and around the world are welcome to apply for the Women2Women – America 2017 conference.

**The conference will be entirely conducted in English; therefore, participants must have a strong ability to speak and understand English.**

In addition, Empower Peace is looking for applicants with the following abilities/interests:

- learning about other cultures, religions, and countries
- political science/government, world events, media/journalism, community activism and/or business
- active in community service activities and/or extracurricular activities
- willing and able to work with a variety of individuals and teams from many different cultures, backgrounds and religions
- demonstrate solid leadership qualities and abilities
- make the most of this opportunity and share their experiences with others in their schools and communities when they return home

**Women2Women alumnae are not eligible to apply as student participants.**

Applications must be submitted (online, e-mail or fax) or received by mail by **MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017 AT 5:00 PM EST**. Final selections will be made, and applicants will be notified (by e-mail or phone), no later than **FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017**. A W2W 2017 Review Board will be responsible for the full application and selection process. Final acceptance for this conference will be made with consideration to the diversity of geographic, racial, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds represented in the full group of participants.

## Applications can be submitted via post mail, e-mail, online or fax.

### Mail:

Attn: Kari Johnston  
Women2Women International Leadership Program  
c/o Empower Peace  
240 Commercial Street, Suite 2B  
Boston, MA 02109  
USA

### Fax:

International Fax Number: 001.617.570.9159  
Domestic Fax Number: 617.570.9159

### Online:

Please continue to complete the application online.  
The application contains 4 personal statements (essays). This application may take **over one hour** to complete do plan accordingly.

### E-Mail:

[kjohnston@empowerpeace.org](mailto:kjohnston@empowerpeace.org)

- If you are planning to email, fax or mail the application, please visit our website, [www.EPWomen2Women.org](http://www.EPWomen2Women.org) to download a word document or PDF of the application that can be handwritten or filled out on your computer.
- If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact Kari Johnston at +1.617.912.3817 or [kjohnston@empowerpeace.org](mailto:kjohnston@empowerpeace.org). You may also contact Tricia Raynard at +1.617.912.3821 or via e-mail at [traynard@empowerpeace.org](mailto:traynard@empowerpeace.org)
- **All application forms must be received by MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017 AT 5:00 PM EST to be considered.**
- Young women who have been selected to attend Women2Women – America 2017 will be contacted by e-mail or phone at their school or home address by **FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017.**
- All information submitted in this application form is confidential and will be used for conference purposes only.
- For more information and new updates about Women2Women – America 2017 please visit our web site at **[www.EPWomen2Women.org](http://www.EPWomen2Women.org)**.



Founded in 2003, Empower Peace bridges cultural and communication divide between young people worldwide. With a focus on connecting youth in the United States and Arab and Muslim world, Empower Peace uses the latest in interactive technologies and intensive leadership training to break down misconceptions and build meaningful relationships and skills. Through a global network of students and schools, Empower Peace is providing the next generation with the opportunities and tools needed to advance mutual respect, understanding, and peace.



**APPLICATION**

SPONSORED BY:  
EMPOWER PEACE

- Complete the following application form. Please type or print clearly with a pen in ENGLISH.
- **Applications must be received by MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017 at 5:00 PM**
- Applications may be submitted by post mail, e-mail or fax.
- Confirmation e-mails will be sent to applicants within 72 hours of receipt.
- Please contact Kari Johnston at +1.617.912.3817 or [kjohnston@empowerpeace.org](mailto:kjohnston@empowerpeace.org) if you have any questions or if you do not receive a confirmation email within 72 hours of submitting your application.

**By Mail:**

The Women2Women International Leadership Program  
c/o Empower Peace  
240 Commercial Street, Suite 2B  
Boston, MA 02109  
USA

**By Fax:**

001.617.570.9159 - International  
617.570.9159 – Domestic

**By E-mail:**

[applications@empowerpeace.org](mailto:applications@empowerpeace.org)

**Please type your responses in the gray boxes**

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**Name as it Appears on Passport or License (if Applicable)**  
(Day/Month/Year)

Date of Application

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Home/Street Address

Telephone Number (Include Country Code)

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City

Province/State

Postal Code

Country

---

Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year)

Place of Birth (City, State, Country)

Citizenship

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E-mail Address (Please Print Clearly)

Please Check One:

- I am a United States citizen.
- I am not a United States citizen but am currently attending school/college in the United States.
- I am not a United States citizen and am not attending school/college in the United States.

Have you applied to the Women2Women Conference before?  YES  NO

If Yes, please tell us what year you applied.  2006  2007  2008  2009  2010  2011  
 2012  2013  2014  2015 – America  2015 – Belgium  2016

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### Passport and Visa Information

Do you currently hold a valid passport?  YES  NO

If yes, what country is your passport issued by? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your passport number? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the expiration date on your passport? \_\_\_\_\_

**If you hold a valid passport, please attach a clear copy of the picture page of your passport to this application if possible.**

Have you ever obtained a travel visa?  YES  NO

If yes, please list visa country and dates acquired.

\_\_\_\_\_

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### School Information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of School/College/Organization Current School Year or  
Occupation

\_\_\_\_\_  
High School and/or College Attended (If not currently a student)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Major Subjects/Academic Interests

\_\_\_\_\_  
Degree Earned (if applicable)

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Please tell us how you heard about Women2Women – America 2017 (US Embassy, e-mail, flyer, web site, at a conference, from a teacher, friend, parent, word of mouth, etc.)

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Please tell us about any extracurricular activities and community service programs you participate in. (Please use additional paper if necessary. Additional sheets **MUST** be labeled with your name and attached to this application.)

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**These personal statements help us become acquainted with you. It will demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself. If you require additional space, please use a separate sheet of paper. Additional sheet(s) MUST be labeled with your name and attached to this application. Please try to limit your responses to 500 words for each question.**

1. Tell us about yourself. Share with us something you have accomplished of which you are proud.
2. This conference attracts emerging leaders from all over the world, reflecting diverse cultures, religion and opinions. How do you see yourself engaging in this experience?
3. We will be discussing important issues affecting women and girls around the world. What are some ways you can share your experiences with others in your school and community?

One key element of Women2Women – America 2017 will be a discussion on women’s rights. The term “women’s rights” refers to the freedoms inherently possessed by women and girls of all ages, which may be institutionalized, ignored or suppressed by law, custom, and behaviors in a particular society.

4. To that end, what do you consider to be the most pressing women’s issue confronting women in your country?  
What do you consider to be the most pressing women’s issue today for women everywhere?
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## Conference Fee and Scholarship Information

There is a \$3,000 (USD) conference fee for all non-sponsored participants. A limited number of scholarships are available. If you do not receive a scholarship, you are still welcome to attend but you must be able to provide the \$3,000 conference fee.

Would you like to be considered for a scholarship?  YES  NO

If you would like to be considered for a scholarship please tell us why you should be considered for a scholarship. (Maximum 200 words – Additional sheets MUST be labeled with your name and attached to this application.)

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In order to monitor and promote the participation rate of women from various racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds, we request that you provide the following information. **You are not required to respond. (Optional)**

Racial/Ethnic Background (Check one)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latina                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American        | <input type="checkbox"/> Arab                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White or Caucasian               | <input type="checkbox"/> South Asian                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arab                             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: Please specify _____      |  |

Religious Background (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

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I certify that the above statements to be true and correct, and to the best of my knowledge the information in my application, including my essays, is my own work, factually true and honestly presented. I understand that the information provided in this application will be used for the purpose of processing my W2W application.

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Signature of Applicant

Date (Day/Month/Year)

**Empower Peace will review all completed applications. By submitting this application to the Women2Women International Leadership Program, I understand that I am not guaranteed attendance.**

**HEALTH HISTORY  
WOMEN2WOMEN – AMERICA 2017**

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First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
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In Case of Emergency, please notify:

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First Name	Last Name	Relationship to Applicant
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Address

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City	State/Province	Postal Code	Country
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Home Phone (Please include country code)	Work Phone (Please include country code)	Cellular (Mobile) Phone (if applicable) (Please include country code)
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Are you physically disabled?     YES     NO

I use :     Wheelchair     Cane     Metal Walker     None     Other

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

I am:     Blind or visually impaired     Accompanied by a guide dog     None     Other

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

I am deaf or hearing impaired:     YES     NO

I require a sign language interpreter:     YES     NO     Other

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Dietary Information**

Do you require Halal meat?     YES     NO

Do you require a Kosher diet?     YES     NO

Do you have any dietary needs?     YES     NO

Please tell us about your dietary needs?

Do you have any food allergies (ie. gluten, nuts, fruits)?     YES     NO

Please tell us about your food allergies.

Do you have any health problems that we need to be aware of?  YES  NO

If yes, please describe your health problems below:

If you have any allergies, please list your allergies below.

Please list any medications that you are taking at the present time or will be taking during the conference:

**I certify that to the best of my knowledge I am in good health and able to participate in this conference. I certify the above statements to be true and correct, to the best of my knowledge.**

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Signature of Applicant:

Date (DD/MM/YYYY):

Signature of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

Date (DD/MM/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

**(Mandatory if Applicant is Under the Age of 18)**

**EMPOWER PEACE WOMEN2WOMEN – AMERICA 2017 PARTICIPANT RELEASE FORM**

Dear Applicant:

Women2Women – America 2017 (W2W 2017) is a program of the Women2Women International Leadership Program, and is an event sponsored by Empower Peace and numerous other corporate and community entities. This multimedia event is a unique combination of education, leadership training, entertainment, interactive dialogue, and inspiration. If you need additional information about this event, please contact Kari Johnston at +1.617.912.3817 or [kjohnston@empowerpeace.org](mailto:kjohnston@empowerpeace.org). In order to attend the conference, this form **MUST** be completed and returned by **Monday, May 15, 2017 at 5:00 PM EST.**

Participant’s Name (as it appears on Passport or License): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School/College/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (Include Country Code): \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone (Include Country Code): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

Wheelchair Access       Sign Language Interpretation       Other Services

If you checked “Other Services,” please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

If selected, I hereby agree to participate in W2W 2017 from Sunday, July 23, 2017 through Tuesday, August 1, 2017, based at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. I understand that I will be returning home on Tuesday, August 1, 2017. I understand that I am to attend all proceedings that are part of this conference. By signing this, I am granting my permission to be photographed on film or videotape for use in any Women2Women International Leadership Program and/or Empower Peace fund-raising or educational materials.

Signature of Applicant

Date (Day/Month/Year)

**Parent/Guardian Consent**

To be completed for all participants under the age of 18 before July 1, 2017.

I hereby grant permission for the individual named above to participate in Women2Women – America 2017 from Sunday, July 23, 2017 through Tuesday, August 1, 2017 based at Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. I understand that the individual named above will be returning home on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 and is to attend all proceedings that are part of this conference. By signing this, I am granting my permission for the individual named above to be photographed on film or videotape for use in any Women2Women International Leadership Program and/or Empower Peace fund-raising or educational materials.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Relationship to Applicant

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

**Remember to send in all completed application forms MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017 at 5:00 PM EST**

**Mail to:**

**Women2Women International Leadership Program**

**c/o Empower Peace**

**240 Commercial Street, Suite 2B**

**Boston, MA 02109**

**Fax to:**

**001.617.570.9159**

**or E-mail to:**

**[kjohnston@empowerpeace.org](mailto:kjohnston@empowerpeace.org)**

**For more information about Empower Peace or W2W 2017, visit our web site at [www.EPWomen2Women.org](http://www.EPWomen2Women.org)**