

# 1. Title

## Youth and Families Committee

# 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Servas International (SI) Youth and Families Committee is to promote and support the active engagement of young people and families within the Servas community at local, national, regional, and international levels. On an international level, the committee can act as the organiser of youth focused activities. At regional to local level, the committee should be contacted to coordinate between neighbouring regions and it is aimed to provide guidance.

The committee aims to foster intercultural understanding and peace through youth participation and leadership, aligned with the overall mission and vision of Servas International.

# 3. Scope and Responsibilities

The Committee shall:

- Work to attract and retain new young members and families to Servas.
- Coordinate and oversee SI Youth Programmes, including the Servas Youth Language Experience (SYLE).
- Organize and support the planning and execution of Youth Conferences.
- Maintain active communication and collaboration with country youth contacts.
- Support the organization of regional youth and family events in cooperation with local contacts.
- Serve as a central hub for youth-focused projects, initiatives, and communication.
- Collaborate with the SI Development Committee, where possible, to further SI strategic objectives.
- Prepare and advise SI Exco on an annual budget for youth and families related activities, within the scope of the Committee.

# 4. Authority

The Youth and Families Committee operates under the authority of the Servas International Executive Committee (Exco), **liaising with its SI Vice President**. It has the mandate to:

- Propose and implement youth-related programs and events.
- Engage with national Servas groups and other SI committees and Teams.
- Represent youth and families' interests within the broader SI organizational framework.
- Make recommendations to Exco concerning youth participation and development.

## 5. Membership

The Youth and Families Committee shall consist of **five (5) members**, elected by the SI General Assembly and **three (3) young members** appointed by the Committee. Each member (either elected or appointed) should ideally be from a group of young Servas members that has the support of his/her local, regional and/or international Servas network. The term length is 3 years – from one General Assembly to the next.

To ensure diversity and global representation, the committee shall include members from **at least three different continents with two or more young members (18-35 years)**

Members should ideally possess relevant skills, including:

- Ability to work cooperatively in a supportive manner
- Strong communication and reporting skills
- Familiarity with Servas operations both internationally and locally
- Experience in youth outreach and event organization
- Competence in preparing and managing budgets
- Ability to connect their network to support the implementation of ideas that are proposed in the committee

Should a vacancy occur during a term, a replacement may be appointed by Exco in consultation with the committee until the next General Assembly election.

## 6. Meeting Procedures

- The Committee shall meet regularly through virtual platforms (e.g., monthly or bi-monthly).
- A quorum shall be constituted by a simple majority of current members.
- Decisions will be made by consensus, or by majority vote if consensus is not achievable.
- Minutes of meetings shall be recorded and shared with the SI Vice President.

## 7. Funding

The committee shall prepare an annual budget for its activities, including program support, meetings, and communication expenses.

The budget will be submitted to the SI Treasurer and Exco for approval.

Funds shall be managed transparently and in accordance with SI financial guidelines.

## 8. Reporting

The committee will provide:

- A written annual report to Exco and the General Assembly, outlining activities, outcomes, and budget utilization.
- Interim updates to Exco or the Servas community as needed.

Reports will also highlight challenges, recommendations, and opportunities for future youth engagement.

## 9. Review and Amendments

This Document shall be read by all Committee members at the beginning of each mandate and reviewed every three years, or earlier if necessary, to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

Amendments may be proposed by committee members or Exco and require approval by Exco following consultation with stakeholders.