



YaleWomen Guiding Principles and Policies for Partnerships and Donors

Background, Mission and Vision

YaleWomen is a global not-for-profit organization (501(c)(3) under U.S. tax law), governed by the laws of the State of New York, our by-laws, and a Council of 25 elected representatives, including five officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate-Past Chair.) Our strategic plan is a public document (www.yalewomen.org) available for review and consideration by potential partners, donors, members, and other interested parties.

Our **vision** is: *Connecting women, igniting ideas, and transforming the world.*

Our **mission** is: *To create a vibrant, engaged community of alums, drawn together by the common thread of our Yale experiences, that is committed to advancing women's voices and perspectives and to enriching and inspiring one another, Yale, and the world.*

We hold the following as **core values** and seek to reflect them in our gatherings, events, publications, documents, and relationships:

- *Inclusiveness*
- *Compassion*
- *Learning*
- *Equality*
- *Integrity*
- *Excellence*

Guiding Principles and Policies

YaleWomen is highly aware of the power of partnerships. We are a volunteer organization, with limited resources, and therefore seek to identify other organizations that are already doing great work in our goal areas, and work together to leverage the power of Yale women to achieve mutual goals. Whether it is promoting girls' education globally, elevating more women to positions of leadership on corporate boards, in academia, the media or government, or developing lifelong education opportunities for our members, we recognize that other organizations share our interests and may have developed effective programs that would benefit from our involvement, or on which we can build.

We have developed guidelines, grounded in our own mission and vision, for seeking or accepting partners and donors. YaleWomen will exercise independent judgment in all respects regardless of any partnership, contribution or potential contribution. The acceptance of a donation by YaleWomen does not imply that

YaleWomen will exert any influence to advance the sponsor's interests outside the particulars of the arrangements made for the program, event or activity.

In the consideration of any partnership arrangement, an officer, council member or committee member with decision-making authority regarding the partnership, must disclose any potential conflict of interest or personal financial interest in the arrangement. If a potential personal financial interest exists, that person must recuse herself from any vote regarding the arrangement.

Definitions

Donors are organizations or individuals that grant funds or in-kind donations to support either a specific program or the ongoing work of YaleWomen.

Illustrative examples of the support donors may provide include:

- **Grants for or underwriting of** specific programs
- **Contributions** towards participant costs (e.g., transportation, lodging, event fees) to broaden participation in a YaleWomen event
- **Funding** for our organization and infrastructure generally

Partners are organizations with whom we develop a strategic relationship that involves a deeper level of engagement on core missions, visions, and values, which may be an ongoing relationship or focused on a particular program or event. The range of potential partnerships is further discussed below.

Donors and Partners are both considered **Sponsors**. It is possible that a Sponsor would make a financial contribution as a Donor as well as work with YaleWomen as a Partner.

Guidelines for Partnerships

We seek to foster appropriate and productive partnerships with other organizations, whether public, private, educational, or not-for-profit.

Relationships with Partners may provide a deeper form of engagement than with Donors, and therefore the identification, selection, approval, or rejection of potential Partners has implications for the growth, dynamism, and strength of YaleWomen as an organization. We have developed guidelines for the review of potential partnerships to:

- **Provide transparency** to YaleWomen members and to outside organizations about our desire to seek partnerships as well as the mutual or reciprocal benefits that we hope and expect partnerships in particular to generate
- **Assure a diligent, and consistent standard of review** of potential partnerships so that our members and the public more broadly will have confidence in the care we have taken in identifying, selecting, evaluating, approving, or declining partnerships

We welcome partnerships with entities whose core missions align closely with ours and that wish to collaborate or contribute in ways that will help us fulfill our mission and vision. We expect to advance each Partner's mission and vision in return. We recognize that partnering with other organizations offers the potential to magnify our impact and extend our reach, and we are committed to building on the good work of others.

We will prioritize partnerships with Yale organizations, with entities that reflect our core values of inclusiveness, compassion, learning, equality, integrity, and excellence. Our partnerships must unquestionably reflect well on both YaleWomen and Yale.

As examples, partnerships may take the following forms:

- **Collaboration** on a specific project or ongoing program, *e.g.* when a non-profit focused on girls' education has either an idea for a program we can help to develop, or has an established program we can participate in and support with our time and talent.
- **A long-term relationship** with an organization whose work overlaps with, enhances, or advances our mission. We may offer support in the form of publicity, education of our members and the public about the Partner organization and its mission, and collaborative programming.

Partnerships may often provide mutual support, and our contribution to a partnership may take the form of, but is not limited to:

- **Visibility:** YaleWomen raises the visibility of the Partner organization by including the Partner's name, materials, or information about the Partner in YaleWomen mailings, meetings, website, literature or other materials.
- **Content development or sharing of existing YaleWomen content and/or programs with another entity:** YaleWomen develops and/or shares a program (or sponsors a YaleWomen speaker) for an event that principally supports the mission of another organization (but which is consistent with the YaleWomen mission).
- **Support or sponsorship by YaleWomen:** YaleWomen allows its name to be used to convene a mission-related event or to develop, produce, market, and/or distribute a mission-related
- **Financial support:** In very selective circumstances, it may be possible for YaleWomen to provide limited funding for a worthy, mission-compatible undertaking by another not-for-profit organization, or to encourage our members to consider supporting such an organization.

This list is not exhaustive; moreover a partnership relationship may entail combinations of the above.

Guiding Principles for Sponsorships

We accept contributions from individuals through our website and in other circumstances, and greatly appreciate the Donors who have supported us to date.

Our guidelines for Sponsorships (Donors or Partners) are meant to be considered when we are determining what organizations we may approach for support, and, because the world of potential Sponsors is large, are drafted as exclusions.

YaleWomen will not seek or accept sponsorships (either donations or partnerships) from:

- Organizations that, through association, could jeopardize our 501(c)3 status, such as political lobbying groups
- Organizations that denigrate women or disregard human rights
- Organizations that, by affiliation with YaleWomen, could distract us from our mission or bring needless controversy to our organization

- Organizations whose primary interest in partnering or sponsoring YaleWomen is furthering their own business or membership interests rather than a shared agenda

In addition, we are a politically nonpartisan organization and we intend our partnerships to be politically nonpartisan; we will not partner with groups that are established to promote or advocate for the interests of a specific political party or political group.

YaleWomen's membership is broad and members' views on many issues vary. Our decision to exclude certain types of organizations as Sponsors is not intended to represent a universally agreed position on any or all of the areas or issues that may be excluded by the application of these guidelines. Our institutional interest as a diverse organization is to engage with other organizations that are closely aligned with our mission and vision, and to avoid partnerships with organizations that might garner undesirable publicity and potentially damage YaleWomen or Yale.