

YaleWomen Non-Partisan Policy

(Certain text originally adopted as part of Lobbying, Advocacy and Partisan Activity 2/15/15;
Revised as Policy on Lobbying, Advocacy and Partisan Activity 2/15/17 and Updated 12/16/19
as Yale Women Non-Partisan Policy)

I. Non-Partisan Policy

YaleWomen is a non-partisan organization that conducts its programs and operations in a manner commensurate with this designation. It does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

YaleWomen recognizes that its members, across Yale College and the Graduate & Professional Schools, class years and personal and professional interests, hold a wide range of perspectives and opinions. These diverse viewpoints are welcomed by the organization, which is committed to ensuring that women's voices across a broad spectrum can be heard.

This objective does not require YaleWomen to avoid activities or programming where political or partisan opinions are aired; however, it does necessitate that YaleWomen media, programming, and activities strive for balance and provide ample opportunity for opposing viewpoints to be heard.

YaleWomen encourages its members at the global, national and local levels to advance the issues they believe in. YaleWomen's members, acting as individuals, remain free to participate in partisan political activity as they deem appropriate, so long as they do not hold themselves out as speaking on behalf of YaleWomen or its Chapters.

One of YaleWomen's greatest strengths is inclusivity – bringing together and learning from the plurality of our voices, in ways that are both respectful and civil. Inclusivity is, in fact, one of YaleWomen's core values. YaleWomen thus seeks to encourage respect for all points of view. We seek to avoid placing judgment on views, so that women are empowered in engaging in meaningful dialogue.

II. Implementing YaleWomen's Non-Partisan Policy: Standards of Conduct

1) **Conduct of YaleWomen Council Members, Officers, and Chapter Heads:** All YaleWomen Council members, officers and Chapter Heads are expected to maintain non-partisanship **while acting on behalf of YaleWomen**. Specifically, this means that, while acting on behalf of YaleWomen, they should not engage in or endorse partisan activities.

In addition to this general standard of non-partisanship, they may not, while acting on behalf of YaleWomen, engage in any activity that favors or opposes any candidate for public office or fundraise for candidates or coordinate any election activity with a campaign or political party (note that such activities would not only be a violation of YW's Non-Partisan Policy, but are also prohibited by YaleWomen's 501(c)(3) status). For more information regarding YaleWomen's 501(c)(3) status, contact the Governance Committee of YaleWomen.

2) **Conduct of YaleWomen Members Using YW Resources**: In addition, YaleWomen **restricts members from using its resources** (including but not limited to YaleWomen's NationBuilder communication platform, its Facebook, and Chapter resources) to engage in any activity that favors or opposes any candidate for public office or to fundraise for candidates or coordinate any election activity with a campaign or political party.

3) **Inclusivity; Respectful and Civil Exchange**: YaleWomen and its affiliates shall foster an atmosphere within YaleWomen media, activities, and programs where respect for all points of view is fostered and meaningful exchanges of ideas can occur. Members who engage in YaleWomen activities (e.g., Chapter events) or use YaleWomen social media (e.g., YaleWomen's Facebook group) are required to be respectful and civil when stating their points of view or responding to the opinions or positions of others. See *YaleWomen's Facebook Rules of Conduct* for further information pertaining to YaleWomen's Facebook group.

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**Related documents:**

- (1) YaleWomen's Facebook Rules of Conduct (adopted 2/15/15, updated 12/16/19)