



Application form for AGORA: EWL Feminist Summer School 2017

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union, gathering over 2000 women's associations. The EWL has members in all 28 EU Member States and three of the candidate countries. The EWL campaigns for a feminist Europe which promotes women's rights and equality between women and men in the European Union.

AGORA 2017

We are looking for candidates to participate in AGORA, EWL's Feminist Summer School, taking place in Brussels **from 7 to 11 September 2017**. AGORA brings together young feminists from across Europe to empower them to act and lead in a changing world. Through a 5-day participatory summer school, we create a space where young self-identified women (18-30) will have a chance to reflect, exchange ideas and support each other to become confident feminist leaders and activists. AGORA already gathered young women from across Europe in 2015 and 2016 and we are now seeking applications from young feminists for AGORA 2017. Find out more about [our previous editions of Agora](#).

"It is a powerful experience, both on the personal and activist levels." AGORA 2016 participant

"It was inspiring to be part of such a knowledgeable and open group, peer learning is definitely one of the best ways of fostering our feminist movement." AGORA 2016 participant

Is Agora for you?

- Are you interested in strengthening your knowledge and skills to advocate for women's rights and gender equality?
- Are you keen to find out what young feminists are doing against inequality across Europe - and how you can work together?
- Are you keen to engage in highly participatory learning processes and willing to learn more about yourself, your talents and your work in this world?
- Do you want to be part of shaping future feminist strategies and campaigns in Europe?

Do you fit the criteria?

- ✓ Are you a feminist woman (self-defined) **between 18 and 30 years old**?
- ✓ Do you have **experience in activism related to gender equality/women's rights**?
- ✓ Do you live in the **European Union or EU Candidate countries**?
- ✓ Do you have a **good level of English**?

You can apply using our online application form: <http://bit.ly/agora2017application>.

Deadline for applications: 9 May 2017 at midnight.

We particularly encourage applications from women from diverse backgrounds (in terms of ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, origin, religion, etc.).

Description of the EWL AGORA Feminist Summer School

The EWL has witnessed **a new generation of young feminists rising up, innovating and rebooting the fight for equality**. A lot of new organisations, initiatives, and campaigns have been flourishing throughout Europe. A 4th wave of feminism on its way! We see many opportunities to strengthen the connection between these activists across Europe and with EWL itself. Through our feminist summer school, we aim to:

- Reconnect and reinforce young European women's activism
- Set up a creative space for young feminist change agents
- Explore the concept of feminist leadership
- Build solidarity and empower young feminist activists and work together across borders to make feminism more inclusive and amplify the voices of feminist networks in Europe
- Enable the EWL to know more about the interests and needs of young feminists and bring these more into the centre of EWL's future strategy and actions.

During 5 days, the EWL will set up an **inclusive space to exchange, to inspire and to reinforce skills through workshops, skills-sharing and expertise, facilitated by EWL and partners**. Please note that this is an action focused and highly participatory event - and not an academic summer school! Although every effort is made to ensure this is a safe and supportive space, it is also not intended as a therapeutic space.

The programme uses innovative participatory methodologies and will be guided by experienced facilitators to create a safe and creative feminist space for learning. Based on the inputs received by the participants in the application process, we will identify participants' main needs and expectations for this programme. We also encourage participants to share their knowledge through participant-led workshops.

Participants will stay at the Jacques Brel hostel (in shared rooms) located in the heart of Brussels. The training programme will take place at Brussels' feminist centre Amazone, around the corner from the hostel. There will be a number of activities organised throughout the summer school including dinners and visits. We will make every effort to ensure that these are as inclusive and accessible as possible and will work with participants to understand and accommodate any special needs.

The selection process

There are only 50 places. The selection will be made by EWL based on the application forms and on the criteria above. The motivation and experience in feminist activism or campaigns for gender equality and women's rights will be deciding factors.

Please note that **10 places** will be allocated to candidates who are affiliated and supported by [one of EWL's members](#). This is to ensure that there is a direct and sustainable link with EWL and its members.

We aim to inform all successful candidates by 30 May.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide feedback on applications to unsuccessful candidates.

Financial contribution

Participants are expected to organise and cover the costs for their own travel to Brussels. There are many cheap means to travel (Megabus, Eurolines, Easyjet, Ryanair, Blablacar...). We will not exclude anyone on the basis of their ability to pay and a few travel bursaries will be available. If you are selected, we will provide more information about how to apply for these bursaries.

We have received minimal funding to help us organise this programme and **we want to be sure that no one will be excluded because of financial reasons**. However, we don't have enough funding to cover the full costs (venue of the event, the accommodation, the catering, the speakers, the team and the material) for everyone. Therefore we ask for a financial contribution, that will also help us create a solidarity fund to provide support for those who do not have any budget for their participation. In the application form, we ask you to indicate your level of voluntary contribution. Of course **the amount you can contribute will not in any way impact on our selection process**.

Application form

You need to complete the application online using this google form:

<http://bit.ly/agora2017application>

OVERVIEW OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

Personal information

- Your personal information such as your name, date of birth, nationality, contact details, etc.
- Whether you are affiliated and supported by one of EWL's member organisation - 10 spots will be reserved for candidates who are affiliated or supported by one of EWL's member organisations. If you are applying through one of our members, they will need to confirm with us via email that they are supporting your application.

Biography (maximum 1300 characters)

1. Please explain your relevant (academic) professional and/or personal experience.

Commitment to Women's Rights/ Gender Equality (maximum 1300 characters)

2. Please indicate any relevant experience or expertise in relation to women's rights and gender equality. Please highlight particularly the experience you have in feminist organisation or activism. Please describe the action(s) you have been involved in. What inspired you to get involved? What role did you play?

Motivation to participate in the agora

3. Why do you want to participate in the EWL AGORA 2017? Please explain your motivation for applying and why this is relevant for you at this time. (maximum 1300 characters)

4. How will you make use of what you learn and the connections you make in your work on women's rights after AGORA? (maximum 1300 characters)

5. What do you think the main priorities should be and what are your expectations of the feminist movement today in Europe? (maximum 1300 characters)

Your wishes, skills and knowledge

In order to design a programme that is relevant for the participants, we would like to know the following:

6. Are there specific issues or skills that you would like to learn more about during AGORA? (maximum 500 characters)

7. Do you have any experience of/in intersectionality and/or multiple discrimination? Would you be interested in sharing this knowledge or experience during the programme? (maximum 500 characters)

8. Do you have any experience or knowledge of online/cyber violence against women? If yes, please explain. (maximum 500 characters)

9. Would you be interested in leading a workshop-session during the summer school? If yes, on what theme? (maximum 500 characters)

Language skills

- You mother tongue
- Level of English (the programme will be in English, so a level of understanding and communication in English is required)

Financial contribution

We'll ask you to indicate the level of financial contribution you are able to commit to as explained above.

Other

- How did you learn about the AGORA?
 - Any other issues you wish to raise
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