



A Program of Empower Peace

**Women2Women – America 2018
International Leadership Program**

July 19 – July 28, 2018

Simmons College

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

Conference Information

The Women2Women International Leadership Program (W2W 2018) is a program of Empower Peace. W2W 2018 is an opportunity for young women ages 15-19 to participate in an educational cultural exchange. This year's program will be held at Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. W2W 2018 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 1,100 young women from over 60 countries have participated in the program since 2006. **APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY MARCH 23, 2018 AT 13h00**

Women2Women – America 2018 International Leadership Program

The Women2Women – America 2018 conference will focus on “The Power of Women” and the critical need for women to promote women’s rights, social justice and to stand up to sexual harassment and gender inequality. As a delegate, 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 15th 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 2018, you will learn how to claim your seat at the table and become part of the solution.

Application Requirements/Process

Young women, between the ages of 15-19 as of July 1, 2018 in the United States and around the world are welcome to apply for the Women2Women – America 2018 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 students 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 students participants.

Schedule

W2W 2018 will take place from Thursday, July 19, 2018 through Saturday, July 28, 2018. July 19th and July 28th are considered travel days. NOTE: International participants may begin their travel to Boston as early as July 18th

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 take part in all conference activities.**

Transportation/Visas

- In order to apply, you must hold a valid French passport. If selected to participate in the **Women2Women 2018 conference**, you will need to complete an ESTA application (travel authorization to the United States) online as soon as possible: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/> Please note that the ESTA's fees will be at your own expense (approximately 15€)
- The U.S Embassy France 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.**
- Transportation for all conference activities will be arranged through Empower Peace.
- The U.S Embassy France / 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.**
- 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 Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA during the entire conference. Simmons College is approximately 7 miles (about 11 km) from Logan International Airport. (Approximately 20 minutes drive)
- Students will have at least one roommate from another delegation/country. We do not take roommate requests.
- 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.
- Participants will be living in an all-female dorm with only Empower Peace participants and staff.
- Participants are expected to abide by all Empower Peace and Simmons College dorm rules. Rules will be provided in check-in materials.
- 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. **IMPORTANT:** Participants will be responsible for any charges/co-pays associated with a medical visit. Coverage will begin on the day they begin travel to the United States and will end on the day they return home.

Financial Responsibilities

Costs covered by U.S Embassy France /Empower Peace

- **Air travel to and from the conference**
- Food
- Lodging
- All conference materials
- All conference related activities and ground transportation during the Conference
- All costs connected to speakers, and conference development and implementation
- Basic health coverage (for all international participants)
- Conference fee
- U.S Embassy France / Empower Peace will not cover costs associated with the travel (luggage fees, airport transit visas, travel visas or passport application process.)

Costs covered by the participant:

- Costs associated with securing an ESTA application (travel authorization to the United States - approximately 15 EUROS)

- Health insurance deductible and or outstanding balances not covered by health insurance – should the participant require medical care or hospitalization



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. Applications must be received by **FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018 at 13h00**

Applications may be submitted by e-mail at consulusbordeaux@state.gov

Please type your responses

Name as it Appears on <u>Passport or License (if Applicable)</u> (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
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Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year)	Place of Birth (City, State, Country)	Citizenship
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E-mail Address (Please Print Clearly)

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 2017

Passport and Visa Information

In order to attend the W2W 2018 Conference, all international participants must have a valid passport. **Your passport expiration date must be at least six months after August 4, 2018. If you do not have a passport that is not an issue. If selected, you will have adequate time to obtain a passport.**

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.

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)

Please tell us how you heard about Women2Women – America 2018 (US Embassy, e-mail, flyer, web site, at a conference, from a teacher, friend, parent, word of mouth, etc.)

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.)

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?

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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 2018 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?

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.

Signature of Applicant

Date (Day/Month/Year)

U.S Embassy France 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 2018**

First Name Middle Initial Last Name

In Case of Emergency, please notify:

First Name Last Name Relationship to Applicant

Address

City State/Province Postal Code Country

Home Phone Work Phone Cellular (Mobile) Phone (if applicable)
(Please include country code) (Please include country code) (Please include country code)

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: _____

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.

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 2018 PARTICIPANT RELEASE FORM

Dear Applicant:

Women2Women – America 2018 (W2W 2018) 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 the U.S Embassy by email

consulusbordeaux@state.gov In order to attend the conference, this form **MUST** be completed and returned by **FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018 at 13h00.**

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 2018 from Thursday, July 19, 2018 through Saturday, July 28, 2018, based at Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. I understand that I will be returning home on Saturday, July 28, 2018. 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, 2018.

I hereby grant permission for the individual named above to participate in Women2Women – America 2018 from Thursday, July 19, 2018 through Saturday, July 28, 2018 based at Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. I understand that the individual named above will be returning home on Saturday, July 28, 2018 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 **Friday, MARCH 23, 2018 at 13h00 BY**
EMAIL:

CONSULUSBORDEAUX@STATE.GOV

For more information about Empower Peace or W2W 2018, visit our web site at
www.EPWomen2Women.org

PLEASE DO NOT APPLY ONLINE