



## Open Call for Participants

Study Session on:

**When You(th) Need to Speak up:**

*Enabling Expression and Speech in a Diverse World*

04—08 March 2019

Budapest, Hungary

Dear friends,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to participate in the study session on “When You(th) Need to Speak up: Enabling Expression and Speech in a Diverse World” which will be held in Budapest on 04—08 March 2019. This five-day study session is organized by the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe—and is part of IFLRY’s bigger thematic focus on liberal pluralism.

The overall aim of the study session is to enhance social and civic participation of young people in a diverse and pluralistic society by identifying and exploring concrete measures to overcome existing (and potential) barriers to freedom of speech and expression, inclusion and multicultural peaceful co-existence—and thus to create the conditions that empower youth to develop their individuality and to contribute to various aspects of social life. Using the framework of non-formal education, we aim at fostering the necessary formal and informal institutional arrangements at the local, national, and international levels that could serve as a prerequisite to enabling individuals from all walks of life to successfully engage and participate in societal life as full-fledged members and to ensure peaceful coexistence and cooperation between groups within and across societies — with an emphasis on youth, and specifically youth from vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The specific objectives of the study session are as follows:

- to analyze the role and importance of freedom of expression and speech as the key driver of sustainable youth participation and successful social inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups, with an emphasis on refugees and immigrants.
- to identify formal \*and\* informal barriers to freedom of expression—and thus to participation in social and political life. For example, the role of hate speech, structural and multiple discrimination, and stigmatization in disenfranchising young individuals and vulnerable groups from social and economic life.
- to explore the role of diversity and pluralism (and the tensions arising therefrom) in contemporary societies and their impact on the democratic peaceful processes, eg. in regards to the inclusion of young refugees and migrants
- to establish a firm understanding of the prerequisites for the social and political inclusion of new / “different” members in a community (i.e. immigrants, refugees) and explore the role and implications for all the stakeholders, conflict transformation in a pluralistic society, and cross-cutting intercultural dialogue within and across societies.
- using the tools of non-formal education which are uniquely suited to convey the learning outcomes of this activity to (i) raise awareness about the harmful effects of discrimination, stigmatization, and hate speech on social discourse; (ii) raise the level of multicultural competence and promote intercultural dialogue as a learning experience
- using the tools developed during the activity to identify entry points for self-organized implementation of activities in the participants’ home countries and member organizations. In particular, to develop project ideas and action plans that address the issues discussed in the process of the study session in their respective contexts, including those that acknowledge the importance of the empowerment of vulnerable communities (e.g. young refugees) and ways to boost their participation and engagement in the democratic processes at various levels (in host countries)

- to build capacities of the MOs through empowering individuals to (i) lead to further transfer of the experiences and knowledge into their respective local communities; and (ii) strengthen their advocacy efforts for promoting the values of peaceful coexistence and cooperation in diverse environments
- to strengthen intercultural dialogue and increase multicultural competency within IFLRY

In the course of the seminar besides receiving theoretical knowledge and expertise from the team and external experts, the participants will be engaged in developing action plans to implement in their youth organizations, as well as in the project groups that may have been formed in the study session. The action plans may be short or long term and can include a variety of activities and/or advocacy efforts. The participants of the seminar are also expected to develop a set of recommendations to IFLRY on implementing policy proposals.

Given the nature of the topic, participants with a background and keen interest in pluralism and freedom of expression are highly encouraged to apply.

Below you will find further practical information. Please find here the **online form** through which you can apply. We are looking forward to receiving your application!

Hussam Erhayel,  
**Executive Director**

#### **Application Procedure:**

The deadline for applying is: **30 January 2019** (23:59 GMT).

Applicants must register through our online form by following this [link](#).  
All required fields must be filled in. IFLRY will not accept blank nominations.  
For any questions, please contact the office by E-Mail: [office@iflry.org](mailto:office@iflry.org)

#### **Date & Venue:**

**Arrival:** Participants are expected to arrive on **Sunday 3 March 2019 before 18:00** local time

**Departure:** Participants are expected to depart **Saturday 9 March 2019 at any time**. Please note that **full completion** of the program is **mandatory** to qualify for a reimbursement of travel expenses. There can be **no late arrivals or early departures**. The venue will be **European Youth Center Budapest** (Budapest, Zivatar u. 1, 1024).

### **Funding & Travel Costs:**

This activity is implemented with the support of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. Participants are required to travel in the most economical manner that is reasonably possible. Participants are expected to travel between their place of residence and the town in which the activity takes place and back. Meals and accommodation of the participants during the activity will be covered. Visa costs will be covered upon presentation of the visa copy and receipt from the embassy. 80% of travel costs will be reimbursed upon presentation of all tickets and receipts, **up to 250 EUR for participants arriving from a CoE member state**. Travel insurance costs will not be covered by the reimbursement scheme. An official acceptance and confirmation from IFLRY office is required to start booking the tickets.

The participation fee is **50 Euros** and will be deducted from the travel reimbursements.

### **Organizers:**

The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) is the global umbrella organisation of liberal youth and students organisations from all around the world. Its central mission is to globalise freedom.

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe is part of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation. The Department elaborates guidelines, programmes and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local, national and European levels. It provides funding and educational support for international youth activities aiming at the promotion of youth citizenship, youth mobility and the value of human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism. It seeks to bring together and disseminate expertise and knowledge about the life situations, aspirations and ways of expression of young Europeans.

### **Language and Format**

**English** is the working language of this study session.

The study session will be held using **Non-Formal Education** format and methodology. Non-Formal Education is participant-centred, action-oriented and value-based. It is instruction that is not obligatory and structured and is learned outside the context of a formal school. IFLRY has been an ardent advocate of Non-Formal Education and is using it as a leading approach in its events and activities.