

## FORWARD YOUNG WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

### MEMBER SPECIFICATION

**ROLE SUMMARY:** The successful applicant will be part of a 12-person voluntary committee that advises on the direction of FORWARD's youth programme develop, facilitate and implement activities for the Young Women's Hub. YWAC members will work together to organise monthly events for the Young Women's Hub, designed to engage and educate about sexual and gender-based violence, with a focus on Black young women and girls. Each YWAC cycle lasts a year and members are invited to serve additional terms at the end of each cycle.

**YOUNG WOMEN'S HUB PURPOSE:** The Young Women's Hub is designed to grow, engage, retain and mobilise young BAMER young women supporters and activists in FORWARD's work against sexual and gender-based violence. Through the Hub's monthly events, and further activities, including a podcast and newsletter, FORWARD aims to provide an empowering platform for young black women to discuss ideas and topical issues relating to GBV and VAWG with other like-minded people.

**FORWARD PURPOSE:** FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development) is the leading African women-led organisation working on female genital mutilation, child marriage and other forms of violence against women and girls in the UK and Africa. For over 30 years we have been committed to safeguarding the rights and dignity of African girls and women. We do this through community engagement, women's empowerment, and training of professionals, research, and international advocacy. We know that change happens when different talents and passions come together for a common cause. We know that change happens when different talents and passions come together for a common cause. That's why we provide a space for young people to connect, create and collaborate

YWAC roles are voluntary FORWARD roles. The group is coordinated by the 2 Co-Chairs and Secretary who directly liaise with and are supported by FORWARD staff. Expenses for travel outside London will be reimbursed. Some activities the YWAC members have been involved in include:

**#MyBodyMyPower** – November 2017, 17 Black women living in London took part in FORWARD's innovative photo campaign shot by Marianne Olaleye to commemorate the UN's 16 Days of Activism. The campaign has since been exhibited at the European Development Days in Brussels and been seen by at least 150,000 online users. The campaign featured members of the YWAP

**Africa Women's Diaspora Forum** - November 2017, members of the YWAP took part in the Africa Programmes annual event which was an intergenerational conversation around sex and cultural norms

# FORWARD

## *Safeguarding rights & dignity*

**#WeToo** – December 2017, YAC members planned and organised the launch event for the Young Women’s Hub at Surya. This brought together a host of performers and notable vendors including Sharna Cane, Poetic Pilgrimage and Kuba Wraps

**Yo! Fest** – June 2018, members of the YAC and YWAP participated in a two-day festival drawing young people across Europe to debate and put forward suggestions for the advancement of European politics. The event took place in Strasbourg, France

**European Development Days** – June 2018, members of the YAC engaged with key figures within the field of international development and women’s rights during the two conference hosted by the European Commission. The YAC exhibited FORWARD’s strategy on violence against women and girls (VAWG) to over 8,000 EDD participants at Tour de Taxis, Brussels

**17 Years of Maputo Protocol** – July 2018, one member of the YAC addressed an audience at Parliament including Professor Fareda Banda (Lecturer of Law SOAS), Josephine Odhiambo (Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat). She provided a youth perspective on international constitutions, namely, the Maputo Protocol

We are interested in applicants who meet the following specification:

### **ESSENTIAL**

Passion for advocating for the rights and dignity of women and girls

Empathy for BME women and communities, particularly SGBV affected communities

Self-starter, motivated, able to give direction and willing to be guided

Able to commit to regular communication via Slack, email and WhatsApp and to attend meetings at least twice a month.

Good understanding of the importance of team work and equal opportunity matters

Commitment to the values and vision of FORWARD. A commitment to diversity and equality in working relationships and practice

### **DESIRABLE**

Ability to develop new and innovative ideas and seize opportunities to enhance the campaign on SGBV

Excellent presentation, confidence and delivery skills particularly on sensitive issues to young people.

Awareness of the issues and social constructs that impact BME women’s health and wellbeing particularly women of African heritage living in the UK and/or Africa

Good written and verbal communication in English, particularly in communicating effectively and sensitively with BME communities

Good presentation, confidence and delivery skills particularly on sensitive issues to young people



*Safeguarding rights & dignity*

## EQUALITY STATEMENT

Equality and diversity is at the core of our values and staff are expected to work collectively and individually to promote a constructive and sensitive approach to others from a variety of backgrounds, where the work of others is valued and respected.