



## The 2018 National CCR Youth Action Gathering! June 6, Toronto

The Canadian Council for Refugees Youth Network is holding the 6<sup>th</sup> annual National Youth Action Gathering (YAG)

under the theme *the power of being you: liberating our intersecting identities*. Hosted in partnership with the Center for Refugees Studies at York University, Amnesty international at York and WUSC Keele committee at York, the YAG will engage young refugees, immigrants, youth settlement workers and allies from across Canada on common challenges facing newcomer youth and equip them with the necessary tools to address these challenges. As always, this will be a day of sharing, learning, expression, networking, and fun!

With this year's CCR international Conference, we hope to reach out to a wider audience of youth participants from all over the world who will have the space to share their experience as newcomer youth leaders in their community and to pass it on to others. We will extend the YAG's activities to the International Conference having a Youth workshop during the International Conference as well as other activities for newcomer youth.



### Some of the important issues we will be talking about:

- Barriers and challenges affecting newcomer youth's full participation in society
- Spaces for youth in organizations working with migrants and refugees
- Building bridges between local communities and creating lasting networks
- How youth and immigration intersect
- Using the arts to express and connect experiences

### About us:

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) Youth Network is a dynamic coalition of refugee and immigrant youth and allies from across Canada. Our members are active as volunteers, community organizers, activists, and youth settlement workers in local communities. We address common personal and systemic barriers faced by newcomer youth across Canada and promote youth engagement in advocating for refugee and immigrant rights. We are a part of the CCR, an independent national coalition of refugee- and immigrant-serving



organizations committed to the rights and protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Canada and around the world and to the settlement of refugees and immigrants in Canada.

## Context – why the YAG:

Refugee and immigrant youth often face significant personal and systemic barriers in their everyday lives. These personal barriers include, but are not limited to, learning a new language, adapting to a different educational system and unfamiliar culture, separation from close family members, and having lost social support networks as a result of recent migration. Refugee youth often face significant additional challenges such as dealing with the trauma associated with having survived situations of extreme violence and missed schooling while in a situation of displacement. Examples of systemic barriers include the perpetuation of myths, stereotypes, discrimination, prejudice and racism, as well as exclusionary Canadian immigration policies.



With common challenges comes the need for unified action and a platform upon which to mobilize. The CCR Youth Network is committed to filling this need by providing a friendly, supportive and accessible space for refugee and immigrant youth advocates from across Canada to meet face-to-face, share experiences and respond to issues of concern to them. Given the opportunity and support, newcomer youth can be leaders in their communities and counter these barriers. This is why the Youth Action Gathering is such an important component of our work.

## Goals:

- Build networks, solidarity and momentum amongst newcomer youth and allies from across Canada
- Offer a platform for newcomer youth from across Canada to exchange experiences and mobilize on the key issues that affect their full participation in society
- Provide a space for newcomer youth to develop their leadership and engagement on the common challenges affecting them
- Equip refugee and immigrant youth with useful skills and resources to increase awareness on the issues identified and to plan actions to address them at the national level

We are looking for partners, sponsors and volunteers. Get involved by contacting us at [yag@ccrweb.ca](mailto:yag@ccrweb.ca) or visiting [ccrweb.ca/en/youth/yag-2018](http://ccrweb.ca/en/youth/yag-2018) for more information.