



WORLD COUNCIL FOR YOUTH WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION

OCTOBER 2021



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WHO WE ARE

World Lebanese Cultural Union – WLCU

The World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU) is a civil institution, independent and non-governmental, non-political, non-sectarian, non-religious and non-profit making, established to ensure the preservation and propagation of pride in the Lebanese culture and its manifestation throughout the Diaspora. The WLCU stands as a Trans-Global Organization associated with the Department of Global Communications (DGC) since 2009 and accredited to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations since 2011, and is autonomous and independent of any governmental institution either within the Republic of Lebanon or elsewhere in the world. Established in 1959, the WLCU holds its headquarters in the city of New York and currently has active chapters in 26 countries.

WLCU World Council for Youth – WLCUY

All member institutions formed from the youth descendants of Lebanese origin within the WLCU are together known as the World Council for Youth (WLCUY). As one of the constituent bodies of the WLCU, the WLCUY serves as a forum of meeting and discussion for the Youth of Lebanese origin spread around the world, without distinction of religion, political ideology and country of residence.

The WLCUY is a great way to learn about the WLCU, and get other youth involved in understanding and sharing the Lebanese culture and heritage. It also provides fertile ground for youth empowerment, networking, and generating public opinion to support the mission statement of the WLCU to build a better organization for all Lebanese around the world.

The core aims of the WLCUY are to:

- Act as worldwide forum for young people of Lebanese descent to network and socialize;
- Connect the youth to the mother country and to learn the Arabic language;
- Educate the youth about Lebanon's contribution to world civilization;
- Empower the youth to get involved in WLCU affairs;
- Encourage young Lebanese descendants to visit and keep in contact with Lebanon;
- Serve as a link for new generations of Lebanese descendants to obtain the Lebanese citizenship;

OUR TEAM

WLCU World Council for Youth

The World Council for Youth currently brings together 11 member institutions with 20 active local chapters present in 10 countries across Europe, North America and South America.

Country	Member Institution	President
Argentina	Juventud Unión Cultural Argentino Libanesa (JUCAL)	Ms. Sharon Zgaib
Bolivia	Juventud Unión Cultural Boliviana Libanesa (JUCBL)	Ms. Adriana Daher
Brazil	Juventude Líbano Brasileira (JULIBRA)	Ms. Tatiana Azzi
Canada	WLCU Youth Canada	Ms. Samantha Khaouli
Chile	Jóvenes de Origen Libanés (JOL)	Ms. Daniela Martínez
Colombia	Juventud Colombo Libanesa (JUCOLI)	Ms. Valentina López
Denmark	WLCU Youth Denmark	Ms. Mary Saliba
France	Jeunes ULCM France	Mrs. Claude Tannoury
USA	WLCU Youth USA – California State Council	Mr. Anis Abdul Karim
USA	WLCU Youth USA – New Jersey State Council	Ms. Pamela Cario
Uruguay	Asociación de Jóvenes Uruguayo Libaneses (AJUL)	Mr. Fady Abisaab

The WLCUY also actively collaborates with established Lebanese youth institutions around the world:

Costa Rica	Juventud Libanesa de Costa Rica (JULCOS)
Mexico	Jovenes Mexicanos de Ascendencia Libanesa (JOMALI)
Paraguay	Juventud Libanesa del Paraguay

WLCUY Board & Working Commissions

Administrative

Chairperson	Mr. Sergio de los Ríos Feghali	Bogotá, Colombia
Secretary General	Ms. Christina Salmay	Ottawa, Canada
Treasurer	Mr. Yusif Kahwagi	Mexico City, Mexico
Communications	Ms. Tatiana Azzi	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Working Commissions

The working commissions are diverse groups made up of WLCUY members from different countries, focused on addressing particular topics for the benefit of Lebanon and its diaspora.



Cultural Affairs Commission – plans and evaluates cultural and educational initiatives related but not limited to arts, dance, film, gastronomy, history, language, literature, and music, and put them into action.

Media & Communications Commission - coordinates all WLCUY publications and news for the official website and social media profiles, as well as with news outlets in Lebanon.

NGO Commission – actively engages in youth-led UN activities to consolidate the organization’s affiliation to the DGC-UN and accreditation at ECOSOC. Initiatives include informative publications and campaigns, collaborations with NGOs located in Lebanon and abroad, and participation at DGC Civil Society Unit programs, ECOSOC Youth Forums, and UNDP Youth Initiatives.

Social Welfare Commission – creates awareness and promotes community service among the members of WLCUY, in Lebanon and other countries where the WLCU is present, through diverse events, activities and/or media campaigns.

Women’s “SHEis” Commission – an all-women team focused on raising awareness against gender bias, celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, and taking action towards accelerating gender parity by promoting women empowerment in Lebanon, the Lebanese diaspora communities and the WLCU.

WHAT WE DO

The WLCUY member institutions act in their respective countries, taking part or organizing numerous initiatives for the community to strengthen local bonds, both within the community and with Lebanon. These initiatives range from food and clothing drives to cultural campaigns to social gatherings, giving the opportunity for the young Lebanese diaspora to experience the livelihood but also to leave lasting impacts, both short and long term, on the community.

Through the World Council for Youth, awareness is raised, creativity and passion are expressed, and most importantly, the connection between our country of residence and our homeland is strengthened. Capitalizing on this global platform, the member institutions of the WLCUY work in unison to plan and execute activities, projects and campaigns on a regional and global stage. All member institutions are highly encouraged to take part in the proposed initiatives to the best of their ability in order to generate a stronger, lasting impact on Lebanon, and serve as a bridge for more young Lebanese descendants to connect with the country of their ancestors.



A brief overview of the most recent WLCUY global initiatives is shared below:

AIESEC x WLCUY

An agreement was reached with the AIESEC Lebanon branch in April 2019, teaming up to present WLCU Youth members with special conditions to facilitate their participation in AIESEC summer opportunities offered in Lebanon. The opportunities focus on empowering young people to make a progressive social impact through leadership development, cross-cultural internships, and global volunteer exchange experiences, in collaboration with NGOs like 26 Letters, Kunhadi, and Makhzoumi Foundation, among others.

Feel Lebanon

Feel Lebanon is a 3-day campaign held annually in November, consisting of events organized by each of the WLCUY member institutions. The purpose of this campaign is to share Lebanese culture and traditions through events uniting Lebanese and non-Lebanese communities in order to celebrate, educate, and commemorate the Lebanon on the month it celebrates its independence.

Lebanese American University – LAU

The WLCUY and the Lebanese American University (LAU) signed a memorandum of understanding to discuss issues of common interest and to coordinate work programs and support mutual efforts, with a focus primarily on programs and workshops related to the Arabic language and the Lebanese dialect. The relationship has materialized through the LAU Byblos Campus hosting the WLCUY World Congress in July 2019, the joint participation at UNESCO's World Arabic Day event "The Arabic Language: Roots, Forms and Globalization", and partial scholarships for summer Arabic courses for WLCUY members.

Most recently, LAU's SINARC program offered an interactive online Lebanese Dialect workshop free of charge for WLCUY members, and the WLCU Youth awarded scholarships for its members to study in SINARC's Arabic Online courses.

LEBolution

Every two years the WLCUY holds its World Youth Congress "LEBolution", a unique journey designed to strengthen the Diaspora's connection to Lebanon by bringing together the youth of Lebanese origin from around the world and exploring all corners of the country, while taking part in a variety of activities: cultural events, volunteering activities, meeting outstanding personalities of the country, holding forums to exchange visions about the present and future of Lebanon, among many more. Each LEBolution edition connects 200 youth between the ages of 18 and 30, from over 17 different countries. Some trademark LEBolution activities include blood donation campaigns, cedar reforestation initiatives, forums with local youth organizations, recreational activities with the children of the martyrs of the Lebanese Army, visits and activities with the Lebanese Army's Marine Commandos Regiment, participation in the ONE LEBANON festival, an international symposium on Lebanon's crises hosted at



LAU, visits to the Lebanese Parliament, the Grand Serail and Banque du Liban, and the program's traditional hand-painted Wall for Peace.

(For more information: <https://wlcu.world/ng/youth/lebolution/>)

WLCU Youth NGO Commission

Since its creation in 2020, the WLCUY NGO Commission has actively participated in four global forums organized by the DGC-UN and its Youth Representatives, focused on addressing common challenges for younger generations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, youth engagement and equal opportunities within the framework of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The commission has also actively directed its efforts towards encouraging youth to engage and generate an impact in their local communities through online discussions with NGOs in Lebanon and abroad, such as Impact Lebanon, Bebw Shebbak and Beit el Barakah, and towards informing about the work of the United Nations and the over 10-year relationship between the UN and the WLCU.

SHEis March Campaign

In honor and commemoration of International Women's Day on March 8th and Lebanese Mother's Day on March 21st, the WLCUY SHEis Commission coordinates an annual campaign throughout the month of March to acknowledge strong and accomplished Lebanese women across the globe, raise awareness on gender equality in Lebanon and its diaspora, and promote women empowerment within the Lebanese communities around the world and throughout the WLCU.

The commission has actively undertaken initiatives related to women's rights in Lebanon, gender equality, and the important role of women in various aspects of Lebanese society, ranging from arts to business to politics, and has collaborated with organizations and personalities like EqualityNow, the Arab Institute for Women, Dikkeni, Carole Mansour, Myriam Sfeir, among many others.

WLCU Youth Community Talks

Born out of the need to adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic, the WLCU Youth Community Talks initiative aimed to bring Lebanon and its diaspora closer together through online conferences, with guest speakers from all corners of the world sharing their experiences and knowledge on a variety of subjects related to Lebanon. The opening series of Community talks featured online conferences held in various languages, focusing on arts, cultural heritage, diaspora migration, gastronomy, geopolitics, history, the Phoenicians and their negotiation skills, and the situation in Lebanon immediately after the August 4th explosion in Beirut.



CONTACT

For more details on anything stated in this document, projects, campaigns, or if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to youth.presidency@wlcu.org or youth.secretariat@wlcu.org.

The WLCU Youth is also present online and on various social media platforms:

Website	https://wlcu.world/ng/youth/
Facebook	World Lebanese Cultural Union Youth – WLCUY (@WLCUY) LEBolution (@wlculebolution)
Instagram	WLCU Youth (@wlcuyouth) WLCU Youth SHEis Commission (@wlcuysheis)
Twitter	WLCU Youth (@wlcuy)