



AFRICAN QUEER YOUTH INITIATIVE MAWULISA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Information Packet

Deadline for submission of applications: 8th November 2021

This information sheet provides guidelines and answers to the FAQ on the AQYI MawuLisa Fellowship program and application process. Applicants are advised to read the guidelines of the call for application carefully before submitting their application. Please also visit www.aqyi.org for more information about our work and other similar projects we are working on, which may provide you with the information you need to complete your application.

If you have additional questions that are not answered below, please send them to admin@aqyi.org.

About the AQYI

The African Queer Youth Initiative (AQYI) is a group of motivated, dedicated, and resourceful young people across Africa, from Southern Africa to North Africa, from East Africa to West Africa, including the African islands. – All working together with the common goal of giving a voice to African LGBT+ youth and empowering them to lead change through campaigning, lobbying, organizing, advocacy, research, networking, and capacity building.

Over the years, AQYI has focused on four major initiatives:

- **Building a strong network to enhance the LGBT+ youth movement in Africa:**
Provide platforms and opportunities for LGBT+ youth to connect and share knowledge, to develop a common agenda, and engage in collaborative action.
- **Developing a more capable cohort of African LGBT+ youth leaders:**
Drive the targeted development of leadership teams and individuals, and expand the capacity of organizations to implement national and transnational campaigns targeting LBT+ youths in Africa.
- **Generating a strong knowledge base on the lived experiences of LGBT+ youth:**
Document and share best practices for interventions with LGBT+ youth, and develop strong baseline data.
- **Provision of Grants:**
Facilitate a direct small grant mechanism to channel resources to LGBT+ youth organizations and activists championing change on the ground.



ABOUT THE MAWULISA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

1. What is the MawuLisa Fellowship Programme?

While the advent of HIV and AIDS has made it easier for gay groups and movements in West Africa to access funding, it is a fact that lesbian, bisexual, trans, and queer women whose needs were not HIV-focused have had difficulty accessing funding. Most of the problems related to the complex and specific needs of LGBTQ women are sometimes ignored within larger LGBT+ organizations in Africa. As a result, young LGBTQ women are unable to organize themselves and assert their leadership. In light of all these reasons, AQYI is setting up this leadership program for young LGBTQ women. The MawuLisa Fellowship Program is a project of the African Queer Youth Initiative designed to assist emerging and mid-career LGBTQ women activists to design and implement projects that focus on addressing issues affecting young LGBTQ women in their country and community and advocating for their rights. Recipients of this program will be supported to implement their projects while housed in "host organizations" that are committed partners in the Fellow's program. AQYI provides technical and financial support of \$5000 to fellows during the 6-month fellowship period.

2. The goal of the Fellowship Program?

The overall goal of the MawuLisa Fellowship Program is to enhance and strengthen the capacity of emerging LGBTQ women activists to design and implement effective projects that seek to address issues facing young LGBTQ women in their countries and community and to advocate for their rights. This fellowship program is built on the premise that communities affected by specific issues are best placed to deal with them and that effective and sustainable advancement of LGBT+ rights in Africa will be achieved by leveraging on the passion, innovation, and unique skills of emerging leaders. The AQYI is committed and dedicated to giving voices and support to communities that are too often silenced within the larger LGBT+ community. This fellowship program is a close collaboration between the fellows, host organizations as partners, and the AQYI.

3. How long is the Fellowship Program?

The fellowship program is a 6-months dedicated program. Selected fellows will be expected to spend a few days working closely with AQYI and their host organization to develop their work plans before the project implementation phase begins.

4. Who can benefit from the Fellowship Program?

The fellowship is intended to support:



- Emerging LGBTQ women/feminist leaders who advocate for the interests of young LGBTQ women in their countries and are involved in solving problems that affect them, and who are willing to work to improve the living conditions of LGBTQ women in their countries.
- Young LGBTQ women with experience or training in the areas of human rights, HIV/AIDS, youth leadership, advocacy, and communication.
- This program is focused on young LGBTQ women leaders living/working in the following West African countries: (Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, Mali, Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Nigeria).
- Applicants from francophone countries must be fluent in French (for francophone West Africa) and English (for Nigeria). However, we encourage applications from bilingual candidates.
- Applicants must be between ages 18 – 35.

5. Who is not eligible for a grant?

- The founders or leaders of the proposed host organizations.
- Students who intend to use the fellowship program to support a thesis, dissertation, or degree work.
- Candidates who do not live or work in any of the target countries.
- Candidates who do not identify as LGBTQ women
- Sex workers who are not LGBTQ
- People who identify themselves as allies of the LGBTQ community

6. How do we know that the person submitting is a member of the community?

To ensure this, we ask each applicant to provide two references within the Fellow's community who can attest to their sexual orientation and gender identity. Also, we have other ways of confirming applications through our members and network in countries in Africa.

7. The applicant does not have a reference in his/her country, can he/she propose a reference in another country?

Ideally, the candidate should have references in their home country. But it is not a problem if the reference comes from another country as long as the person can attest to their work.

8. Can the applicant receive the funds in their personal account?

No, as each candidate is required to receive the funds through their host organization.



9. What is the role of the host organization?

Host organizations provide physical space for fellows to work from (if necessary), on-site supervision and support for fellows' activities, and the financial infrastructure for administering the fellows' grant. In addition, host organizations serve as important partners in the successful implementation of the fellowship program.

10. Can the host organization of the Fellow come from a country other than the Fellow's country of residence?

Ideally, we would like Fellows to choose host organizations in their country of residence. This is a very important point in the selection of candidates. However, in some cases, you may have difficulties finding a host organization in your country, so we urge you to inform us as soon as possible to guide you. Applicants are advised to contact their organization of interest and let them be aware of your application and your intentions of using them as a host organization.

11. Can beneficiaries or volunteers in an organization use that organization as a host organization?

A proposed Host Organization may be the organization where the applicant already works or has a relationship or a new organization where the proposed project is well suited to be implemented. The applicant must have discussions with potential Host Organizations before the application process.

Although the applicant may already be employed by their proposed Host Organization at the time of application, there should be clarity in the planning phase about how they would transition their activities if they were selected as a Fellow to ensure that fellows' program activities are the primary focus of work for the duration of the fellowship.

12. Can any organization be a host organization?

No, as we recommend the following types of organizations:

- Established non-governmental, civil society, or community-based organizations or research/academic institutions with experience working on human rights, gender, feminism, HIV/AIDS and LGBT+ issues.
- Be open to and committed to working on LGBT+ issues and consider ways of integrating this into their current portfolio of work if they have not already done so. And be willing to submit relevant documentation to the Fellows.
- Commit to working with the Leadership Fellows to develop and share common goals, roles, and responsibilities. Designate a supervisor for the Leadership Fellow and clearly define the expectations of the Fellow in the work plan.

13. How will the host organization supervise our activities?

Each host organization must provide the fellows with a supervisor.



7. What is the role of this supervisor in the implementation of the project?

- The host supervisor must supervise the Fellow, guide his/her work and liaise with AQYI staff to ensure that the fellows receive adequate support for the successful implementation of their project.
- The AQYI staff responsible for this project will act as the Fellow's primary supervisor. However, they will work closely with the host supervisors to ensure that the strategies developed by the Fellow are successfully implemented and that the fellows are adequately linked to other relevant organizations and partners and that the proposed plans are appropriate to the community/country context.
- The host supervisor must validate the Fellow's reports before they are sent to the AQYI supervisor.
- The host supervisor may be invited to meetings organized by AQYI regarding the fellowship project.

8. If the applicant does not have a host organisation, can his/her project be selected?

Please note that priority will only be given to applicants who have secured support from a proposed Host Organization. Strong candidates who do not have a Host Organization will be considered on a case-by-case basis. However, the applicant would need to eventually find a host organization before they can be approved as a fellow for the project.

What you need to know before proposing a project:

9. What types of projects are eligible?

We are looking for innovative projects, creative initiatives, projects that are not often funded by donors and that make specific changes on issues affecting LGBTQ women/communities in their country, which contribute to the promotion of LGBTQ women's rights and leadership in their country.

10. What types of projects are NOT eligible?

- Projects without clear, achievable objectives.
- Projects that lack clarity and achievable impacts.
- Academic research projects.
- Projects that advance or support a political campaign.



- Projects that focus solely on research
- Projects that focus solely on awareness-raising
- Projects that are not feasible within 6 months.
- Projects that other organizations are already implementing in the grantee's home country
- Projects that replicate traditional forms of activism.
- Projects that would be led, implemented, or require approval from an institution or government official.

How to apply

After having read the information about the fellowship program carefully, click on the link to fill in the application form and submit it. Only applications made online will be considered.

11. If the applicant submits the concept note after the deadline, will the project be considered?

We do not accept submissions after the submission deadline indicated. Unless the applicant has expressed some difficulties that justify the delay, however, this is at the discretion of the AQYI.

12. How do we know that AQYI has received our application?

You will receive an email indicating that your submission has been received. However, if you do not receive a response within 72 hours after you have submitted your application, please send an email to admin@aqyi.org to let us know.

13. What happens if the applicant has not filled in all the boxes or answered all the questions?

AQYI will not consider their submission.

14. Is it possible that applicants will be asked to make changes to their submissions?

Yes, we may ask applicants to modify or adjust some of their activities in their project proposal if we deem it necessary.

15. How long after submitting the application should applicants wait before receiving the submission form?

Submission forms will be sent to applicants three weeks after the Application submissions. However, if any changes occur, applicants will be informed.

