



Call For Applications for LEAP Academy Participants

We invite applications from young LGBTIQ+ leaders aged 18 - 30 in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal to join the **LEAP Academy**, a leadership and advocacy programme for West and Central Africa. Apply to build skills, expand your network, and accelerate change for HIV, SRHR, and human rights.

About LEAP Academy

Y+ Global, in collaboration with Frontline AIDS and with support from the Elton John AIDS Foundation, is launching the Leadership Empowerment Advocacy and Pride Academy (LEAP)—an 18-month initiative to strengthen leadership, advocacy, and movement-building among LGBTQIA+ leaders aged 18–30 in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal.

Drawing on the READY Academy model, LEAP equips participants with practical skills, mentorship, and networks to advocate for rights, improve access to HIV and health services, and respond to a growing anti-rights environment. The Academy will support 50 young leaders through a structured curriculum, ongoing mentorship, and regional learning exchanges.

Objectives

The objective of the LEAP Academy is to empower 50 young LGBTQIA+ leaders to drive national and regional advocacy for inclusive health and rights systems. We aim to

- Build leadership and advocacy capacity among young LGBTQIA+ leaders.
- Provide structured mentorship linking participants with experienced leaders.
- Strengthen policy influence and LGBTQIA+-led movement-building across WCA.
- Foster safe, resilient networks for sustained advocacy and peer support.

What selected participants will receive?

If selected, you will benefit from a comprehensive support package, including:

- Academy training in human rights and advocacy, community mobilisation, strategic communications, organisational development, and leadership and skills development.
- Post-Academy mentorship with tailored guidance from experienced advocates.
- Advocacy access and visibility, including support to engage decision-making spaces and national, regional, and global networks.
- Small grants to implement community-led advocacy and movement-building initiatives with technical assistance from in-country partners.
- LEAP Alumni membership for ongoing learning, collaboration, and opportunities.

Who should apply?

The LEAP Academy welcomes self-identified young LGBTIQ+ leaders aged 18–30 who:

- Have demonstrable experience working with or for LGBTIQ+ communities;
- Reside and work in one of the five priority countries: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, or Senegal;
- Can communicate in English or French;
- Show strong commitment to advancing the LGBTIQ+ movement nationally and regionally.

Requirements

Successful applicants must commit to full in-person attendance at the workshop in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from **17 to 21 November** (with travel days on 16 and 22 November). As the application timeline is limited, participants should already **possess a valid passport** with six months' validity before applying.

This commitment extends beyond the in-person days and includes:

Pre-Workshop Activities: Active participation in mandatory preliminary activities, which may include preparatory interviews, required reading, and webinar engagement.

Post-Workshop Engagement: Ongoing active engagement in alumni platform activities, fulfilling mentorship requirements, and implementing small-grants activities (depending on funding).

How to apply?

To apply for the LEAP Academy 1 held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 17–21 November, please complete [the Application Form](#) no later than **Friday, 26 Oct 2025**. Note that all sections of the Google Form must be fully completed with your utmost honesty for your application to be considered.

Questions or support?

If you have any questions regarding the application, feel free to reach out to Enoc Siméon Kra at ekra@yplusglobal.org.
