Power In Balance: FAQs for Young People

What is Power in Balance?

Power in Balance is a national youth organising programme designed to build the leadership, organising skills and collective power of young women and allies across the UK. Delivered in partnership with The Advocacy Academy, Community-led Action and Savings Support (CLASS) and The Young Women's Movement, the programme will equip young people to lead local and national gender justice campaigns while strengthening the capacity of partner organisations to support youth-led social change.

Through Power in Balance, 60 young people (aged 16-30) from across the country will come together to learn the skills of community organising and co-create a youth-led national gender justice campaign. At the heart of the programme will be a residential camp next year, where young people like you will set the direction for national action rooted in their local communities.

What is the Youth Steering Group (YSG)?

The Youth Steering Group is a collective of young leaders shaping the direction, design, and delivery of *Power in Balance,* the national gender coalition. You'll work alongside young people from across the UK to make sure the programme is *youth-led from the very beginning*, rooted in your lived experience, and driven by the issues that matter most to you.

Why are we creating a YSG?

Because we believe young people shouldn't just take part in change - you should lead it. The YSG puts your voice at the heart of big decisions, building your leadership and agency across our network. It's shaped by our three leadership pillars:

- **Power Within** – growing your confidence and sense of purpose
- **Power With** – building collective strength and solidarity
- **Power To** – taking action to influence systems and make change

Who can get involved?

At Community Savers/CLASS we're recruiting:

- 5 young people aged 18-30 in North Manchester
- 5 young people aged 18-30 in Wythenshawe
- 10 young people aged 18-30 in Sheffield

These young people will participate in the wider training programme and work together on systems change that benefits women and girls.

We are also recruiting 3 young people to represent the above areas in a "Youth Steering Group (YSG). We're looking for people who:

- Care about gender justice, social change, or community leadership
- Are up for learning, collaborating, and representing your organisation's youth community
- Can commit to monthly meetings, a two-day in-person gathering, and the camp next year

You don't need prior experience - just curiosity, courage, and commitment.

What will YSG members do?

As part of the YSG, you'll:

- Help design key parts of *Power in Balance*, including recruitment, storytelling, comms, and easter camp content
- Represent your peers and share what's happening in your community
- Model youth leadership and co-design across the network
- Get access to leadership training, mentoring, and skills development

You'll play a crucial role in making sure *Power in Balance* stays youth-led, inclusive, and values-driven.

What support will I get?

For the pilot year, all Youth Steering Group (YSG) members will receive

- a **stipend** for your time and contribution. A stipend is a set payment that recognises your time, energy and expertise - it's a way of valuing your input, rather than a wage or salary. This is a **paid and incentivised opportunity**, meaning you'll be financially supported for taking part in meetings, sharing your ideas, and helping to shape the programme.
    - Online meetings - £15 per hour.
    - In-person gatherings and camp - £125 per day
- **Travel, accommodation, and food** covered for in-person gatherings
- **Training and mentoring** to grow your leadership and confidence
- **Pastoral and accessibility support** so you can participate fully

What is the Time Commitment for YSG (Jan – April 2027)

- **8 December:** Online introduction session
- **23-34 January:** In-person kick-off & training (2 days in London)

- **February–April:** Monthly 2-hour online meetings and around 1-2 hours of work in between meetings.
- **April:** In-person camp and reflection
- **May:** Reflection meeting

Please apply if you are able to attend all dates.

What	**When**	**Where**
December Meeting *Welcome & Intros*	8 December 2026 Evening	ONLINE
YSG Kick Off	23-24 January 2027	IN PERSON *The Liberation Centre, 2 Beehive Place, Brixton SW9 7QR* *(Accomodation, travel & food covered for YSG members)*
February Meeting	2 February 2027 Evening	ONLINE
March Meeting	2 March 2027 Evening	ONLINE
April - The Camp	Dates TBC	IN PERSON
May Meeting	4 May 2027 Evening	ONLINE

How will the YSG shape the work?

At the January kick-off, you'll:

1. Understand the full scope of the programme
2. Co-create the YSG's working culture and values
3. Identify the areas you want to lead and influence

Your ideas and leadership will shape how *Power in Balance* is designed, delivered, and led - every step of the way.

Why this matters

We're living through a time that demands courage, facing persistent gender inequities and growing social division, challenging injustice, and imagining new ways of leading. The YSG is a space to *be brave together*: to lead, to learn, and to build something bigger than any one of us. This is about growing the next generation of organisers, campaigners, and community leaders ready to create a just and sustainable future.

What is The Advocacy Academy?

The Advocacy Academy (TAA) is a home for youth organising in the UK. We support young people to build the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make change. We run leadership programmes that help young people turn their lived experience into collective action. *Power in Balance* is our newest national programme focused on gender justice. We will be providing the training and container for the YSG to operate throughout its delivery. We are based in Brixton, London at The Liberation Centre.

What is Community Savers/CLASS

We are local partners for this Advocacy Academy led programme in Manchester and Sheffield. We are a network of women-led community associations and neighbourhood networks pushing for a stronger voice for disadvantaged communities in decision making and developing our own alternative facilities and service delivery models. Find out more about our work at www.communitysavers.net and www.socialhomes4mcr.org.uk.

How do I apply?

There are three easy steps to apply.

1. Book a time for an informal chat with your local Community Action Coordinator.
2. Think it all through and talk to family and friends.
3. Whether you want to participate as an ordinary youth trainee or as a Youth Steering Group member, please send your local Community Action Coordinator a short video or voice note (2 minutes max) setting out why you would like to take on this role.

Contact:

- Georgie – Community Action Coordinator (Sheffield): Georgie.mitchell@class-uk.com
- Ella – Community Action Coordinator (Manchester): ella.karnikhinks@class-uk.com

COMMUNITY SAVERS

CLASS
Community Led Action and Savings Support