

GLOBAL JAMAICA DIASPORA YOUTH COUNCIL (GJDYC) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council?

The Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council (GJDYC), is a youth-led initiative, formed with the aim of increasing the affinity and connection of young leaders in the Jamaican Diaspora, to Jamaica. The GJDYC was formally established in March 2020 to enhance Diaspora youth engagement mechanisms to impact, specifically, the second, third and fourth generations.

2. What is the role and function of the Council?

The GJDYC serves to engage, empower and organize the youth of Jamaican heritage in the Diaspora and mobilize them to connect and contribute to Jamaica's development. The GJDYC is mandated to shape a more strategic and ritualistic relationship with Diaspora Youths for shared growth and development.

3. What is the age limit for youths that may serve on the GJDYC?

Persons wishing to serve on the Youth Council must be between the ages of 18-35 years.

4. What are the eligibility requirements for the Youth Council?

- a) Be Jamaican or of Jamaican descent;
- b) Be at least 18 years old
- c) Have no criminal convictions pending or imposed on him/her by any court;
- d) Have never been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt by any court or financial institution;
- e) Have no pending litigation proceedings against him/her;
- f) Be resident in the respective Diaspora location;
- g) Have a minimum residence period of three years at the start of term;
- h) Have expressed indication of intention to commit to and stay within the region for the tenure of leadership and the subsequent time period to facilitate the hand-over process
- i) Have been registered by the Governance and Election Committee to be a candidate for elections;
- j) Have not been medically certified as a person of unsound mind;
- k) Possess a reasonable level of demonstrated management and leadership skills or experience;

- l) Have no disciplinary proceedings or sanctions pending or imposed by a professional or administrative body;
- m) Have a willingness to commit and has sufficient time to discharge his or her duties to the Council; and
- (n) Have no perceived or actual conflict of interest
 - (i) upon nomination or election or
 - (ii) during the term, which has not been addressed in accordance with Part E Paragraph 4 (Conflict of Interest) of the GJDYC Terms of Reference.

5. What is the composition of the GJDYC?

The leadership of the GJDYC is comprised of an Executive Board of 15 members. This includes 7 Regional Youth Council Leaders with 2 residing in Canada, 2 in the United Kingdom (1 from the Northern and 1 from the Southern Regions) and 3 from the United States of America (1 from the North-East, 1 from the West Mid-West and 1 from the Southern Regions) as well as 4 members of the Secretariat drawn from the three major regions as well as a representative of the Diaspora Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and 4 heads of Jamaican Youth Organizations (Jamaica National Youth Council, Youth Advisory Council of Jamaica, Youth Ambassadors Programme and Jamaica Union of Tertiary Students.

6. What is the governance structure of the GJDYC?

The GJDYC is headed by the Chairperson and supported by the Executive Board of the GJDYC. Each year, a Chairperson will be nominated and elected from among the GJDYC Regional Youth Council Leaders and will serve in that role for the ensuing year.

7. Is there an election process for membership to the GJDYC?

Yes, there is an election process for the seven (7) Council members drawn from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Elections to the GJDYC will take place during the period 23rd November to 16th December 2022 across the regions.

8. Why do I need to register to vote in the elections?

It is important that we have a transparent and

accountable mechanism. Jamaicans in the Diaspora will be required to register during the period 18th October- 16th November 2022, in order to vote in their respective regions. The nomination period is the 1st-20th November and voting period, the 23rd -16th December.

9. Can a nominated candidate for the youth council sit on the electoral committee

Individuals who have been nominated for election to the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council are not eligible to sit on Electoral Committees.

10. Who is eligible to vote in the elections for membership of the council?

Persons wishing to vote for nominated candidates for the GJDYC must be between the ages of 18-35 years and be a permanent resident or citizen of the country in question.

11. Are members of the council compensated?

Members of the Youth Council will serve on a voluntary basis and are therefore not compensated.

12. Is the Youth Council an arm of the Government of Jamaica?

The GJDYC is not an arm of the Government of Jamaica. Consequently, the views expressed by Council members do not necessarily represent the views of the Government of Jamaica.

13. How is a candidate nominated to the GJDYC?

After ensuring that the necessary eligibility requirements are met, a Nominator's Declaration Form, Nominee Consent of Nomination Form and a Nominee Declaration Statement of Qualification Form, must be submitted to the Electoral Committee in order to be eligible for nomination to the GJDYC.

14. Where do I find more information on the GJDYC election process?

You may visit mfaft.gov.jm for more information on the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council and the election process.