



Vital Voices Global Mentoring Walks Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Global Mentoring Walk?

Vital Voices engages our Global Leadership Network each year through the Global Mentoring Walk, convening established and emerging women leaders to walk together in their communities. As they walk, each established leader guides, advises and supports an emerging leader as they discuss personal and professional challenges and triumphs. Held on the same day in countries around the world, the Global Mentoring Walk activates the potential of the Vital Voices Global Leadership Network.

Who organizes Global Mentoring Walk events?

Vital Voices solicits key members of its Global Leadership Network to organize Global Mentoring Walk events in their communities. The Global Leadership Network is comprised of all past participants of Vital Voices initiatives and programming, such as: Businesswomen's Network leaders, Vital Voices Chapter leaders, VVLead Fellows, VVGROW Fellows and alumnae of the FORTUNE/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership who are working to "pay it forward" in their communities and beyond. Only past and current participants of Vital Voices initiatives and programming can organize a Mentoring Walk.

What is required of a Global Mentoring Walk organizer or *Flag Bearer*?

Mentoring Walk organizers, known as *Flag Bearers*, are responsible for organizing a Mentoring Walk event for a given calendar year. Flag Bearers determine the size and scope of their Mentoring Walk, recruit and organize participants, fundraise and plan logistics for the walk event.

Flag Bearers are also responsible for collaborating with Vital Voices in their Mentoring Walk planning process by communicating event activities and outcomes to Vital Voices staff.

Time Commitment

The time required to organize a Mentoring Walk will vary based on the number of partners you choose to work with and the number of participants you choose to invite. A Mentoring Walk can involve as little as 10 participants or as many as 1,500 participants. Smaller walks will require a commitment of a few hours a week over several months whereas larger walks can take up to nine months to organize. In the past, Flag Bearers have been able to spend less than 10 hours a week working in the first few months of preparation, but dedicated over 30 hours per week in the weeks preceding the walk. While a few Flag Bearers in the past have organized walks alone, most have a team helping them. A support team can alleviate some stress in the planning process, as well



as broaden the reach of your network. The average size of Flag Bearers's support teams is six people. We highly recommend beginning the planning process as early as possible, so you and your team are not overwhelmed in the weeks leading up to the day of the walk.

Financial Commitment

Unfortunately, Vital Voices cannot offer funding to support the Global Mentoring Walks. However, many Flag Bearers find partners or sponsors to support their walk through direct financial support or in-kind donations. The cost of an individual Mentoring Walk can range from \$300 to \$25,000 USD depending on the size of the event. The average cost for a Mentoring Walk is \$3,300 USD.

Who can participate in a Mentoring Walk as a mentor or mentee?

Flag Bearers select participants based on their understanding of the needs of the women and girls in their community. Mentees can range from high school girls to mid-career women professionals. Mentors can range from female university students to established, high level women executives.

Can men participate in a Mentoring Walk as a mentor or mentee?

The goal of the Global Mentoring Walk is to accelerate the impact of women leaders through mentoring. As such, Flag Bearers typically select women and girls to participate as mentors and mentees. However, Flag Bearers are welcome to engage men and boys in their walk based on the needs of their community. In previous years, Flag Bearers have engaged men and boys as speakers, volunteers, mentors and mentees.

What resources would be available to me as a Flag Bearer?

If you decide to participate as a Flag Bearer, Vital Voices will be with you every step of the way. Vital Voices can serve as your resource as you plan your Mentoring Walk: to answer your questions, to brainstorm with you, to work through challenges you may face, to connect you with other members of the Vital Voices network, to offer advice, and to share in your successes.

Specifically, Vital Voices will provide you with the following:

- Access to other Vital Voices network members who may be interested in acting as mentors or mentees.
- Event planning tools, including guidelines for selecting participants, and tips for facilitating positive mentoring relationships.
- Communications materials, including a press release template, letters of invitation, talking points and social media guide.
- Visibility for your work on Vital Voices social media channels.



Can I hold my walk on an alternate date?

The Global Mentoring Walks will take place on Saturday, March 10, 2018. By holding the walks on the same date, Flag Bearers demonstrate the power and solidarity of women leaders around the world. Given that, we strongly encourage Flag Bearers to hold their Mentoring Walk on the official date. However, if you have serious concerns over holding your Mentoring Walk on the official date, please contact Vital Voices to discuss an alternate date.

How are Flag Bearers selected each year?

Network members interested in organizing a Mentoring Walk must complete the Flag Bearer Application to register their Mentoring Walk with Vital Voices. The Flag Bearer Application is shared with the entire Vital Voices Global Leadership Network each year through an online survey.

When the application is released, Vital Voices will share a list of cities where Mentoring Walks have occurred in the past, and are already scheduled to take place in 2018. If your city already has a walk taking place in 2018, we can connect you with the current Flag Bearer to see how you can collaborate and help with the organizing process. If your city does not already have a walk, we invite you to submit a Flag Bearer Application to lead your own local event for the 2018 Global Mentoring Walks!

I don't want to serve as a Flag Bearer. Are there other ways to get involved?

There are a number of ways you can get involved with the Mentoring Walks. These include: you can be a part of the organizing process for a Mentoring Walk in your city, serve as a participant in a mentor/mentee pairing, or serve as a volunteer during the Mentoring Walk event. If you are interested in supporting your local Mentoring Walk, Vital Voices can connect you to the local Flag Bearer, who can identify areas where they may need support.

If you would like to be part of the 2018 Global Mentoring Walks, please contact:

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