



International
Foster Care
Organisation

**CALL FOR
EXPRESSION
OF INTEREST**

2019 conferences 2020



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The International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO) is inviting expressions of interest from member and non-member organisations to host the next biennial IFCO 2019 Regional and 2020 World Conferences.

Overview

IFCO is the only international network dedicated to the promotion and support of family foster care all over the world. We share global experience to achieve excellence in alternative care. Through regional and global events, IFCO brings together people involved in family-based foster care offering a unique opportunity for foster carers, birth families, children and youth in foster care, social workers, academics, researchers and policy makers to meet, exchange information and share best practice about global fostering advancements.

Both world and regional IFCO conferences are held at various locations around the world on a bi-annual basis. Between 1981 and to date, IFCO have staged 38 regional and international conferences in a wide range of countries around the world. Our conferences are always well attended and very well received. We promote a fun, energetic and enthusiastic environment where foster carers, professionals, academics and young people have a voice at the multi-cultural arena.

Another distinctive feature of IFCO events is that all attendees are united behind the common aim of helping to make it the right of every child and young person to live in a family.

Request for proposals

International Foster Care Organisation is looking to identify two host countries for the next IFCO Regional Conference that will take place in 2019 and IFCO World Conference scheduled for 2020. This is an exciting opportunity for the host country to showcase latest developments in family-based and indeed all alternative care in the region, share best practice and network with professionals and carers involved in foster care from around the globe.

To apply, please submit a comprehensive proposal with the following information.

Letter of intent

The letter should contain:

- Proposed Dates of the conference

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- Proposed Location of the conference
- Estimated cost of hosting conference
- Indication of willingness to enter a contractual agreement between IFCO and the Conference Organising Committee
- Commitment to the promotion of the family-based care as the main conference goal

Proposed host committee

Please include host organisation name and its brief description. Please specify also host conference committee including host member names, titles, email addresses and phone numbers if possible.

For **Regional Conference IFCO 2019** please submit the following items by **March 28, 2018** to IFCO Secretariat via email ifco@ifco.info. Deadline for submission for **World Conference IFCO 2020** is **May 15, 2018**.

Preliminary timescale for IFCO 2019 Regional conference:
March 28, 2018 – deadline for receiving letters of intent
April 15, 2018 – IFCO Board decision on selected proposals

April 30, 2018 – deadline for Bid Book submission from organisers
September 3, 2018 – opens registration for conference and call for papers

February – June 2019 – IFCO 2019 Regional conference

When the expression of interest to host Biennial IFCO Regional or International Conference has been accepted, you will receive a confirmation letter. Then you can formally proceed with preparation of the **Bid Book** which should include the following information:

- Proposed Budget
- Sponsors
- Financial support (from clubs, governments, and/or company donations)
- Theme(s) & Youth Programme / Children's Programme Outline
- Dates
- Samples of the type of accommodations available
- Tourist brochure map and information about your country (i.e. promotional tourism pamphlets)
- Day-to-day breakdown of the conference programme
- Sightseeing of your country and/or city
- Letters of recommendation from (a)

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Province/State; (b) Mayor; (c) Any other organisation that is supporting your bid (i.e. faculty of Social Work)

- Commitment to enter a contractual agreement between IFCO and the Conference Organising Committee.

Decision of the Board for IFCO 2020 World Conference will be made by July 5, 2018, Bid Book should be submitted **no later than 15 months** before the IFCO 2020 World conference.

Specific Guidelines for IFCO Regional and World Conferences

- Regional IFCO Conferences are held on the even numbered years in one of the continents or regions.
- Conferences are typically held for 3/5 days.
- IFCO conferences should contribute to cultural, ethnic and racial awareness by means of the programme, presenters, etc.
- Regional conference accommodations should enable 200-700 people to participate. Biennial

World Conferences from 300 – 1000.

- Registration for any publicly promoted IFCO conference shall be open to registration for any IFCO member in good standing.
- Proposals to sponsor the Biennial World International Conference are to be accompanied by letters of support from associations of professional and child-care agencies, foster parent/care provider associations and relevant ministries or government agencies.
- The programme of both speakers and workshop presenters shall be internationally diverse and reflect the diverse roles of the conference programme participants including foster carers/parents and youth along with others.
- The youth programme of the conference is to be organized by the organising management committee in collaboration with the IFCO Youth Committee & Project Network and advertised as such. There will be an appointed youth liaison.
- At International World conferences, families with small (and sometimes many) children should be properly accommodated there must be a day-time children's programme for all ages.
- The official language of the

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conference is English. Ideally, simultaneous translation into several languages should be available but is not compulsory.

- Time on the programme should allow for informal meetings between participants. It should be possible to create special interest groups during the programme.
- The organizing committee should provide a social programme.

Evaluation Criteria for Selecting Proposal

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Identification of theme and objectives: The host has considered ideas for unique programmatic topics focused on the promotion of alternative care that could expand conference impact, enhance the existing platform and benefit to organising country and region.
2. Financial Feasibility: The applicant has demonstrated financial commitment and proposed fundraising strategy or possibilities to get local subsidies from the

government, municipality, etc.

3. Experience: Host Committee has previous experience in organizing conferences for large numbers (i.e. 200+ for Regional conference, 500+ for World conference)
4. Youth Programme / Integration, provision of social opportunities.
5. Evidence of support of government agencies and/or national foster care organizations and location's efficiency.

Questions? Call or email us!

IFCO Secretariat

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