

Confluence and Courage:

Leadership Within and Across Borders



14-16 June 2027



St. Paul, MN, USA

Call for Presentations Guide

INVITATION

The ILA Women and Leadership Member Community invites you to submit a proposal for their 8th conference, *Confluence and Courage: Leadership Within and Across Borders*, which will take place 14-16 June 2027 in St Paul, MN, USA.

This conference provides a critical platform for global visionaries, community changemakers, industry professionals, and tech-forward pioneers to explore what it means to drive meaningful impact. Together, we will dive into five critical dimensions of modern leadership and influence: **Navigating crisis** with effective communication, **empowering women** to champion the AI revolution, **bridging deep** cultural and generational divides, **mobilizing grassroots** communities from the ground up, and **sharing concrete strategies** to put these ideas into action.

IMPORTANT DATES

31 August 2026

Calls for Presentations and Reviewers Open

13 November 2026, 11:59 PM EST

Calls for Presentations and Reviewers Close

16 November – 4 December 2026

Peer Review Period

15 December 2026

Acceptance Notifications Emailed

30 December 2026

Presenter Registration and Edits Deadline

4 January 2027

Program finalized & published



SUBMISSION LINK

<https://bit.ly/4xogG7P>

QUESTIONS? If you have any questions or need assistance with the CFP, please contact us.
Email: conferences@ilaglobalnetwork.org

BEING IN COMMUNITY WITH ONE ANOTHER

When we enter into the trusted space of the ILA, we are making a commitment to be in community with a diverse group of learners from around the world.

The most powerful lever for change is in how we relate to, and connect with, one another, especially across differences.

Connections are created and nurtured as we share our experiences and learn from the experiences and perspectives of others. This engenders a feeling of belonging that nourishes our creativity and advances our collective purpose of advancing the practice and study of leadership for a just and thriving future.

Being in community with one another at the ILA Women and Leadership Conference is not just a vision, it is a leadership practice. Each person who enters this trusted space shares the responsibility to create an environment where everyone is respected and valued.

OUR CONFERENCE MODEL

Our conference operates on a community model where all participants—whether presenting or attending—register (at the published rates) for the event. As a nonprofit membership organization, this approach allows us to keep costs reasonable while creating a space where everyone contributes to and benefits from our collective knowledge. We don't offer speaker fees or complimentary registrations because we see presentations as part of the collaborative exchange that makes our community valuable. All concurrent session presenters also participate in the broader conversation, learning from colleagues and connecting with peers. This model helps us sustain our programs while reinforcing that we're all here together, sharing our work and growing as a community.

CONFERENCE POLICIES

Conference registration is required. If your submission is accepted, all listed presenters and co-presenters, including those later designated as chairs, are required to register and pay the published conference fees by the deadline noted in the acceptance email. Accepted submissions will not be scheduled until registration is complete. Registration rates vary according to student status, member status, and time of registration.

IMPORTANT: The ILA does not pay honoraria, reimburse expenses (e.g., travel, lodging, copying, poster production, etc.), or waive or discount conference registration fees for presenters or chairs.

Consent of Presenters. All participants listed in a proposal must give their consent to be part of the proposal prior to submission. It is the responsibility of the submitter to adhere to this rule for all individuals listed in the proposal. It is also the responsibility of the submitter to make sure participants are aware of the conference registration requirement (see above) prior to submitting.

Scheduling Requests. The ILA does not take scheduling requests. If you submit to the conference, please be prepared to present at any time from the start of the conference on 14 June through the conclusion on 16 June. By submitting a proposal, submitters are confirming the availability of all presenting participants during the conference.

Rule of Two. All presenters may only appear on up to two submissions as presenters and up to two submissions as chairs. People who violate this policy create a lot of extra work for reviewers and the conference team who then have to weed out their excess submissions. Please be considerate.

PREPARE YOUR PROPOSAL

This guide will walk you step-by-step through each submission question. We recommend gathering all of the information in a document file prior to entering the submission portal. This makes it easy to copy and paste and quickly go through the process once you are in the portal. REMINDER: Do not include identifying information in any of the proposal fields (proposal title, short description, long description) or on an uploaded paper.

STEP 1: Learn About the Review Process and Evaluation Questions

ILA utilizes a 3-stage review process for this conference.

Stage One – Peer Review. Peer reviewers read and score each proposal on the evaluation questions listed below. This is a double-anonymous review.

Stage Two – Stream Co-Chair Review. Stream co-chairs decide which proposals to recommend for acceptance based on the proposal and on the reviews.

Stage Three – Conference Chair(s)/ Program Chair(s) and ILA Staff. Recommendations from the stream co-chairs are considered as the team pulls together a compelling overall program.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

During Stage One, Peer reviewers will be asked to evaluate each proposal as follows: On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest, rate the proposal on the following:

- Innovation: Rate the proposal's level of originality.
- Quality: Rate the proposal's coherence and clarity of design/structure/thought.
- Rigor: Rate the proposal's use of evidence from experience and/or research.
- Relevance: Rate the topic's importance to the field of leadership today.
- Impact: Rate the potential of the proposal to stimulate future scholarship/practice/conversation.

Pro Tip: Keep the review criteria in mind as you develop your proposal's short and long description. Ask your own peers to evaluate what you've written using the above criteria and provide you with feedback to make the proposal stronger.

STEP 2: Presenter Information (Required)

Note: The word presenter (or sometimes speaker in the submission platform's terms) is generic for presenter, panelist, host, facilitator, chair, etc.

Please have the following information available for all presenters and co-presenters (including chairs as applicable) listed on your proposal. For the purposes of the proposal submission process, only enter those people who are planning to be at the session in person in St. Paul. If accepted, you will be able to add non-attending co-authors at a later date.

- First and Last Name
- Job Title, Department (if applicable), and Organization.
- Best Email
- Best Phone Number
- Are you a student? Yes/No
- What best describes your career level? Early, Mid, Senior, Retired
- I agree to the policies as listed in the Call for Presentations Guide
- I understand that by submitting, I agree to receive emails from the ILA.

Pro Tips: 1) Note the maximum number of presenters for each presentation type in the section below. 2) Make sure all the individuals listed on the submission consent to being included in the proposal, plan to attend the conference in St. Paul, and understand that conference registration is required at the published rates.

STEP 3: Proposal Title (100 characters max, including spaces) (Required)

Create a proposal title that accurately conveys your topic. Creativity is encouraged but not at the expense of clarity.

Pro Tip: 99% of the time, including the conference theme in your title makes it less interesting.

STEP 4: Select Your Stream (Required)

For each proposal submitted, select one stream:

- Leading in Times of Turmoil and Conflict
- Women's Leadership in the Age of AI
- Leading with Global and Inclusive Perspectives
- Leadership Consultants and Practitioners
- Community-Centered and Grassroots Leadership

STEP 5: Select Your Session Type/ Presentation Format (Required)

Panel - An informed 60-minute dialogue or debate by panelists with contrasting or complementary points of view, moderated by a chairperson, with time reserved for audience participation, questions, and comments. Short opening remarks by the panelists set the stage for robust discussion with each other and the audience. Panelists: 3-5 plus one Chair.

Poster - A visual display of a paper, a research project, a developing idea, or a program or practice that is set up and hosted by the creator(s) during a poster session. Posters will be set up and displayed during the conference poster session (and potentially earlier). During the poster session, the poster creator will host their poster by engaging with attendees who stop by the poster. Presenters: 1-2.

Presentation - A concise, oral presentation (typically 10-15 minutes) that shares best practices, model programs, case studies, theory building, research findings, pedagogy, etc. Upon acceptance, presentations are grouped together with two other submissions to form one 60-minute session. A session chair will be assigned by the stream(s) who will keep time during the session and moderate any Q&A. Presenters: 1-3.

Workshop - An interactive 60-minute demonstration or experiential session on a leadership-related topic that is rooted in audience participation and active learning. Half or more of the time must be dedicated to experiential learning and innovative, active audience participation focused on the development of capacities, skills, techniques, or proficiencies. Facilitators: 1-4.

STEP 6: Proposal Short Description (750 characters max, including spaces) (Required)

Your short description should convey why the topic is interesting and important. Be clear and straightforward. Your short description should concisely summarize the main point, central arguments, evidence, and/or experience you'll be delving into should your proposal be accepted. Keep ILA's multidisciplinary, multisector, global audience in mind and avoid specialized jargon.

STEP 7: Proposal Long Description (7500 characters max, including spaces) (Required)

This is your opportunity to expand upon your short description with a more complete abstract of your proposal. If you choose to include quotations, please use in-text citations, but a full reference at the end is not needed.

Please note the following recommendations for a long description based on session type. Workshops: If you are submitting a workshop, please include the key takeaways for attendees and a draft schedule of how you will use the full time.

Inclusion of Biographical Information in Workshops and Panels: Workshop and panel submitters are encouraged to provide biographical information in the long description that will help peer reviewers and the program team understand why you are qualified to lead a particular workshop or discuss the topic of a panel. To maintain the double-anonymous review, please do not include your name in this biographical information or things like titles of books you've written — be more generic.

STEP 8: Review, Edit, and Submit

Review your submission and make any needed corrections/edits, then click submit. You may log back into the portal and edit your submission at any time prior to the CFP deadline of 11:59 PM EST, 13 November 2026.



SUBMISSION LINK
<https://bit.ly/4xogG7P>

STREAM DESCRIPTIONS

Leading in Times of Turmoil and Conflict

Conference proposals are expected to focus on the strategies and skills leaders use to guide organizations or communities through periods of instability, crisis, or disagreement. Proposals should emphasize approaches for fostering collaboration across diverse groups, highlighting how to bring together individuals with varying backgrounds, interests, and perspectives even when tensions or disagreements exist. Demonstrate an inclusive and practical approach to leadership, addressing how to ensure all stakeholder voices are heard and valued, particularly when situations are turbulent. Proposals should offer actionable insights for fostering collaboration, communication, and effective problem-solving in times of conflict and turmoil.

- Strategies, practical tools, and actionable frameworks for guiding teams through periods of turbulence, instability, and organizational disagreement.
- Inclusive approaches for bridging differences, breaking down organizational silos, and aligning individuals with opposing perspectives or backgrounds.
- Systems and collective processes designed to ensure all stakeholder voices are heard, valued, and mobilized effectively toward common goals.

Women's Leadership in the Age of AI

This stream is focused on the intersection between gender equity, organizational leadership, and artificial intelligence. As generative AI tools reshape higher education, women leaders may face distinct challenges as well as exciting opportunities to reshape their careers. In this stream, individuals are welcome to present empirical research and practical frameworks that address how women can navigate, leverage, and lead through the fast-paced adoption of AI across higher education.

- How can AI tools be used to address skills gaps for women as they pursue leadership positions across higher education?
- Can AI tools be used to support mentoring, networking, and sponsorship in a way that creates opportunities for women leaders?
- Creative or innovative approaches to making AI-generated imagery more inclusive.

Leading with Global and Inclusive Perspectives

We invite proposals for presentations, workshops, or panels that explore effective strategies for leading global and inclusive perspectives in today's complex organizational landscapes. Submissions should focus on best practices for navigating and leveraging differences across cultures, generations, gender expressions, and other diverse identities to foster environments of belonging and inclusion. We are especially interested in approaches that break down silos, facilitate collaboration across boundaries, and empower leaders to cultivate equitable and connected teams. Proposals may highlight innovative frameworks, real-world case studies, or practical tools that help leaders succeed in diverse and interconnected settings.

- Strategies and best practices for navigating cultural differences, generational dynamics, and diverse identities within global teams.
- Frameworks and practical tools for creating inclusive environments where all team members feel valued, connected, and safe to contribute.
- Real-world case studies and evidence-based tools for embedding equitable practices into everyday leadership.

Leadership Consultants and Practitioners

We invite leadership consultants and practitioners to submit proposals that showcase their expertise, proven frameworks, and hands-on leadership tools for the benefit of conference participants. This track offers a platform to share practical insights and methods that have made a measurable impact in a variety of higher education settings. We welcome interactive workshops, skill-building sessions, and evidence-based presentations designed to equip attendees with actionable strategies they can immediately apply in their own leadership roles. Proposals should focus on real-world solutions and innovative approaches that address current challenges faced by leaders and organizations.

- Practical, research-backed methodologies and models designed to solve modern organizational challenges.
- Interactive sessions providing attendees with actionable tools, templates, and techniques for immediate workplace application.
- Forward-thinking strategies and solutions to address emerging friction points in contemporary leadership roles.
- Ready-to-implement strategies for improving team performance, communication, and decision-making.

Community-Centered and Grassroots Leadership

Proposals should highlight the vital role of community-centered and grassroots leadership in driving meaningful change. This track seeks presentations, workshops, or panels that explore leadership models rooted in local communities, collective action, and participatory processes. Submissions may focus on strategies for empowering diverse voices, building trust and partnerships at the community level, or mobilizing resources and networks to address local challenges. We especially welcome innovative initiatives and practical tools that demonstrate the impact of grassroots leadership and offer replicable approaches for engaging and uplifting communities.

- Frameworks rooted in shared decision-making, local community engagement, and bottom-up leadership strategies.
- Practical strategies for leveraging community assets, organizing local networks, and sustaining impact.
- Real-world examples highlighting successful community initiatives that can be adapted across different regions or contexts.
- Hands-on tools and processes for addressing localized social, economic, or environmental challenges.