7th EDITION OF
TALITHA KUM LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE
APPLICATION FOR CANDIDATES

To: Talitha Kum Network
Cc: Superiors General/Provincial

We are pleased to invite you to apply for the 7th training course for the leaders of Talitha Kum, offered in collaboration with **Tangaza College (Nairobi)** and the **Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Rome)**. The course will begin on **March 12, 2027** and conclude with the Final Online Ceremony on **December 15, 2027**. Applications are now open, and we warmly encourage you to join us.

1. BACKGROUND

Over the past eight years, Talitha Kum has organized **six leadership training courses**, forming more than **150 participants** with the support of over **30 professors, formators, and facilitators**. Each edition has responded to emerging needs, providing opportunities for learning, growth, and networking.

The course aims to **strengthen the leadership skills of Religious Sisters and their partners** serving within Talitha Kum networks, preparing current and emerging leaders to contribute effectively to **prevent human trafficking, empower survivors, advocate for systemic change, and promote collaborative action to combat human trafficking**.

Objectives of the Course:

- Deepen understanding of human trafficking and its systemic causes.
- Strengthen knowledge of Talitha Kum's identity, spirituality, and networking approach.
- Develop leadership skills rooted in Gospel values, Catholic Social Teaching, and Integral Ecology.
- Provide tools for advocacy, prevention, communication, accompaniment, project management, and safeguarding.
- Offer a space for practical leadership experience through collaborative group projects.

The Program plan as follows:

- December 2026– February 2027- Selection of Participants
- March 12, 2027 – Official start of the course
- March – June 2027 – Online Meetings/Trainings
- June 21-27, 2027 - In-presence/ residential stage in Lusaka (Zambia)
- July- November 2027 – Project Work Group / Learning Pit Stops
- November-December 2027 – Progress Report / Dissertations / Closing Stage of the Course

See the general program phase of the course below.

2. SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS PHASE

A selection process will follow in **November 2026–January 2027**. Maximum **25 participants** will be admitted.

I. The initial selection will be based on the candidate's CV/resume, Statement of Commitment and fulfilment of the candidacy criteria (eligibility requirements).

II. Personal Interview (Online) – Candidates who successfully pass the initial selection stage will be invited to an online personal interview in English with the Course Formation Team as part of the candidate selection process.

Selection Criteria & Commitments

Candidates must:

1. Must be a member of a Talitha Kum network and have a basic understanding of its mission, vision, and commitment to combating human trafficking.
2. Be fluent in English.

Selected candidates are expected to:

3. Commit to participate actively in all online and in-person sessions.
4. Be available for the residential week in **June 21-27, 2027**.
5. Remain engaged in Talitha Kum for at least three years after the course.

Application Process

Applications must be submitted by **Tuesday December 16, 2026,** using the Google Form available here:

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👉 SCAN

The application **requires** the following documents:

- Updated CV / Résumé
- Letter of Endorsement from the Superior General/Provincial (not required for lay participants).
- Letter of Endorsement from the Talitha Kum Network Coordinator or National Conference of Religious (mandatory for all).
- Signed Statement of Commitment with declaration of the following:
  - ✓ Her/his motivation to attend the course;
  - ✓ Her/his being fluent in **English** language;
  - ✓ Her/his firm commitment to attend the entire in-presence residential stage in **Lusaka, Zambia on June 21-27, 2027**;
  - ✓ Her/his willingness and availability to allocate the necessary time and effort to follow actively all the course's phases and initiatives;
  - ✓ Her/his firm commitment to remain engaged in Talitha Kum for at least three years after the course ends.

3. COMMITMENT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

1. Each selected participant for the course will be responsible for ensuring to attend all sessions on the schedule, both online and onsite meetings with maximum 3 justified absences for the online meetings. Those who miss more

than 3 online sessions and/or in-person training sessions will be automatically withdrawn from the leadership course.
2. Each selected participant is expected to access reliable internet connection.
3. Each selected participant commit her/himself to read or watch through the required materials carefully, and to actively participate in all the foreseen activities, as this is vital to successfully complete the training.
4. Due to the unexpected global economic situation and rising airfare costs, the original budget can no longer cover 100% of the training expenses. Talitha Kum will cover 80% of the course-related expenses, including travel, meals, and accommodation during the residential training. **Participants will be asked to contribute the remaining 20% toward airfare and accommodation**. Scholarships may be considered for participants with financial needs.
5. Certificate of Completion will be given at the end of the course.

4. Course Structure in five phases:

I. **Phase 1/1B** - Online Learning Phase: (Mar–Jul 2027) – Monthly two-hours online sessions introducing key topics and building a common foundation. **Date**: March 12, April 9 and 23, May 7 and 21, June 11 and 18, July 9 and July 23 |**Time**: 2pm- 4pm Rome (CET)

II. **Phase 2** - Residential Phase: (**Jun 21-27, 2027 in Lusaka, Zambia**) – a week of intensive in-person training, community, and exposure integration.

III. **Phase 3 & Phase 4** - Group Project Work: (**Jul–Nov 2027**) – Group work projects supported by mentors and enriched by monthly "learning pit-stops."

The deadline submission of Final Report of group work project is on **October 29, 2027**.

IV. **Phase 5** - Final Thesis & Wrap-Up (**Nov 2027 – December 2027**) – A personal written reflection on the leadership experience - the deadline to deliver the final thesis is fixed on **December 6, 2027**.

All the topics will be addressed through the lenses of Catholic Social Teaching, Gospel, Spirituality, and the Integral Ecology approach.

During the development of the Group Project Works, the participants will also gather for monthly "learning pit-stops" which will have the key role of constantly monitoring the progress of the project and, at the same time, reinforcing the leadership skills. The schedule of these gatherings will be shared in Zambia (or earlier on, if feasible).

The Closing Ceremony (online) will be organized to deliver the official certificates for the 7th Edition of **Talitha Kum Leadership Training Course** by December 2027.

We warmly invite you to **prayerfully reflect on this opportunity** and consider applying if you feel called to contribute to Talitha Kum's mission through leadership. We look forward to **journeying together with you** in faith, hope, and a shared commitment to promoting the dignity of every person. Talitha Kum/UISG expresses its sincere gratitude to Hilton Foundation (CSI) for its generous sponsorship and valuable support, which make this leadership formation initiative possible and contribute to strengthening the commitment and capacity of Religious Sisters and their partners in the fight against human trafficking

Leadership Formation Team
Rome – 15 November 2026