

16 — 19 May, 2017

London



Syrian Diaspora Leaders programme

Common Purpose is running a programme for Syrian leaders in the diaspora that aims to build their capacity to contribute to Syria and to the diaspora community.

Drawing on our experience of supporting other diaspora leaders from communities such as Libya, Zimbabwe, Pakistan and Bangladesh, this programme will help participants develop new thinking, skills, connections and practical tools so they can make a greater impact.

“What a wonderful space for thought, connections and real purpose. The intangible is set to make way for the tangible.”

Shazia Nizam, Creative Director and Founder, My Kolachi, Participant, Pakistani & Bangladeshi Diaspora Leaders Programme

“In my Physics classes, I learnt about the energy and velocity required to push a rocket into space – out of earth’s gravity. I believe this course has given me that escape velocity.”

**Zeb Manatse, Consultant, Pragma Leaf Consulting,
Participant, Zimbabwean Diaspora Leaders Programme**

When and where?

16 – 19 May, 2017 in London

How much?

There is no fee but participants must cover the cost of travel to and from the venue and accommodation (if needed)

How do I apply?

[Click here](#)

For more information contact

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Why take part?

This experience will help participants to:

- **enhance their ability to Lead Beyond Authority**—the ability to lead in situations where they have no formal authority, which is key for diaspora leaders
- **develop their thinking on possible futures for Syria**—and grow their capacity to translate that thinking into positive action
- **build new networks**—by giving them access to participants and contributors they might otherwise never meet
- **develop their Cultural Intelligence**—the ability to cross boundaries and thrive in multiple cultures, by throwing them into a difficult task with a diverse group
- **stretch their analytical and creative skills**—by exposing them to a new approach to innovation
- **re-energize**—by connecting with inspiring peers and leaders from a range of different fields.

How does it work?

The programme focusses on a challenge: “**How can diaspora leaders use their skills, talents and networks to benefit Syria and the diaspora community?**”

This challenge will provide the framework for the programme. Over four days participants are guided through a process of creativity and innovation, including visits to organizations relevant to the challenge and sessions with senior leaders with



knowledge of Syria and of development challenges. The participants will explore the challenge from every possible angle and will see both the problems and the possible solutions in practice.

Participants work up practical ideas in response to the challenge, which they present to a panel of senior leaders at the end of the programme. They then work on their ideas individually and collectively, building long-lasting connections and developing projects that can be prototyped in the ‘real world’ beyond the programme.

In the process participants will:

- Gain a current perspective on the pressing needs in Syria
- Explore the role and contribution of leaders in the diaspora

Who is it for?

We invite applications from exceptional leaders from the Syrian diaspora. Applicants can be in the early to mid-stage of their careers or established leaders. We are seeking a participant group that includes people from different generations. They may have experience of leadership from different walks of life and from any sector – public, private or not for profit.

What are the criteria?

Participants will be from the Syrian diaspora and will need good English language skills as the course will be delivered in English. They will be able to demonstrate that they have exercised effective leadership in any field.

Find out more at commonpurpose.org

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