

THE YOUNG MUSLIM LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Young Muslim Leadership Programme 2021 was held from 25th September to 3rd October. This annual residential Programme is a joint initiative of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and The Prince's Charities. The Programme is designed with three aims in mind. Firstly, to provide participants with an informed understanding of British social and political institutions and values, and to encourage the participants to make a positive contribution to British public life. Secondly, to build a positive sense of identity among participants in being both British and Muslim. Thirdly, to nurture the Centre's network of YMLP alumni and to introduce the present cohort of participants to this network. Participants are British Muslims aged between 21–30 who have demonstrated leadership potential in various spheres, such as local or national government, commerce, the media, the voluntary sector and the arts.

The Programme included seminars from distinguished experts from academia, banking and corporate fields. Speakers came from the charity sector, the medical and mental health sectors, journalism, politics and commerce. The YMLP cohort also visited the Jameel special exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and attended a tour and seminar in Clarence House. The 2021 YMLP cohort spent much valued time together debating, exploring their career paths and generating ideas for their futures.

On Saturday 2nd October, the Centre hosted the 2021 YMLP Alumni Day. This year we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the YMLP. The keynote speech was given by Professor Shahid Jameel, Sultan Qaboos Fellow & Principal Investigator of Centre's project on Public Health, Science & Technology in Muslim Societies. Professor Jameel took as his title, "Covid-19: Science, leadership and society". The Alumni Day also included lectures from three YMLP alumni: Hashi Mohamed, barrister, broadcaster & author (YMLP Cohort 2007) on 'People Like Us'; Zarah Sultana, MP for Coventry South (YMLP Cohort 2015) on 'A year in the life of an MP'; and Zara Mohammed, Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain (YMLP Cohort 2015) on 'Leadership in the Public Eye'. More than 90 people attended the Alumni Day, which also included an afternoon tea to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the YMLP.

The following participants successfully completed the YMLP 2021:

Nour Al Ahmad, Mohamed Sadiq, Afsar Alam, Dr Maryam Al Mahtot, Samatar Aweys, Zahra Beg, Hasina Begum, Tahmid Chowdhury, Rihab El-Hussain, Sumayyah Hassam, Iqraa Hussain, Saania Hussain, Safa Abdul Khaliq, Zakya Jabeen, Haris Kiani, Mashrufa Miah, Sahra Mohamed, Zakariya Mohran, Aida Mugabo, Mohammad Taher, and Saadadden Monajed.

Speakers on the Programme included:

Dr Farhan Ahmad Nizami, The Prince of Wales Fellow, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies;

Professor Steven Gunn, Merton College, University of Oxford;

Dr Asma Mustafa, Dean of Scholars & Salahuddin Abdul Jawad Fellow, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies;

Dr Aula Meki, Chartered Clinical Psychologist, NHS;

Ms Aina Khan, Journalist and Writer;

Mr Richard Weyers, Deputy Registrar, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies;

Nusrat Ghani, MP for Wealden;

Ms Rachel McGill, Co-Founder, Resilient Leaders Elements;

Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC, former Attorney General for England and Wales from 2010 to 2014;

Professor Najib Rahman, Consultant and Senior Lecturer in Respiratory Medicine, University of Oxford;

Dr Basil Mustafa, Senior Associate Member, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies;

Chief Inspector Mohammed Hanif, West Midlands Police Inspector;

Mr Iqbal Nasim MBE, Chief Executive, National Zakat Foundation;

Mr Jeffery Beere, Procurement Director at AkzoNobel;

Mr Alexander Desforges, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; Press Secretary to Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster;

Mr Richard Makepeace CMG, Registrar, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies; former British Ambassador to the Sudan, and to the United Arab Emirates; former Consul General in Jerusalem;

Stephen Timms, MP for East Ham;

Mrs Rachel Dedman, Jameel Curator of Contemporary Art from the Middle East, Victoria & Albert Museum;

Mr Chris Fitzgerald, Deputy Private Secretary to TRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall;

Dr Grahame Davies, Deputy Private Secretary to TRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall;