

YOUNG LEADERS VISITORS PROGRAM

Connecting leaders for positive change

الوصل بين القادة المؤثرين من اجل تغيير ايجابي



LIST OF YLVP PARTICIPANTS

Abbas, Wael (Egypt), Human Rights Activist
Aboyouness, Hazem (Syria), Youth Leader
Abu Hmud, Saed (Palestine), TV and Film Producer
Abulatifah, Rabie (Palestine), Media Communications Officer
Ahdali, Woroud (Syria), Architect
Ahlsén, Pernilla (Sweden), Freelance Journalist
Al Aswad, Maha (Egypt), Online Radio Producer
Eldemerdash, Sara (Egypt), NGO Activist
El Saber, Nirmin (Egypt), Freelance Journalist
Esmat, Nasry (Egypt), Journalist
Farhat, Hiba (Lebanon), Artist and Graphic Designer
Fekry, Emad (Egypt), Journalist
Hassan, Maged (Egypt), NGO Activist
Hassan, Maissan (Egypt), Researcher
Håkansson, Axel (Sweden), Journalist
Kayyali, Mohammad Saleh (Syria), Journalism Student
Khreisat, Amjad (Jordan), Project Manager
Lotfy Karass, Nevine (Egypt), Project Coordinator
Mansour, Kholoud (Syria), Project Manager
Mokhtari, Arash (Sweden), Journalist
Nabulsi, Meera (Palestine), Student
Poohl, Daniel (Sweden), Editor in Chief
Qumsieh, Rima (Palestine), NGO Administrator
Rydén, Hanna (Sweden), Journalist
Shishtawi, Malik (Jordan), Web Manager
Zaghmout, Fadi (Jordan), Blogger
Åsell, Charlotte (Sweden), Process Manager
Östman, Ulrika (Sweden), Journalist

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A connected future

Why is it important to create global relationships? What are the benefits of networks based on openness, mutual learning and respect? How do we capture the opportunities provided by new technology, cultural diversity and the spirit and drive of young leaders working to promote change? These are some key questions Sweden, the Middle East and the world is facing today.

In the last few years, the internet, digital and mobile technologies and social media like blogs, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter have rapidly changed the way information is shaped, spread and delivered. Social media has become one of the key channels. It provides a new generation of opinion-makers with the means to express their views and reach out to a larger audience—instantaneously. Social media makes global debates more open and democratic while breaking down cultural barriers and shattering common misconceptions.

The Swedish Institute believes that strengthening young visionaries who are committed to social change will provide many benefits for the future. The Young Leaders Visitors Program offers its participants an international network and the tools to stay on top of social media development. Supporting young opinion leaders is one of the best ways to find collective solutions to common challenges.

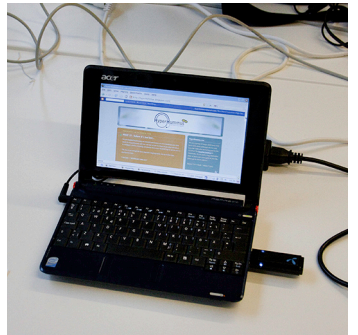
Olle Wästberg
Director-General,
Swedish Institute

Javeria Rizvi Kabani
Project manager,
Young Leaders Visitors Program



What I expect to do is get exposed to new trends, new thinking and methodologies.

Hiba Farhat (Lebanon), Artist and Graphic Designer





About the program

The Young Leaders Visitors Program (YLVP) aims to lay a foundation for a long-lasting and a mutually rewarding relationship between Sweden, the Middle East and North Africa by strengthening and connecting influential voices in all regions.

The program is designed to give future leaders the tools to shape public opinion within cutting-edge social media while boosting their individual, intercultural and leadership skills. The participants become part of an exclusive network that supports personal development and promotes creativity, responsibility and new innovative and entrepreneurial ideas.





Focus Areas

YLVP integrates four focus areas:

Leadership Training: personal development and group dynamics from an intercultural perspective, encouraging creative initiatives as well as dialogue, cooperation and knowledge-sharing.

The leadership training is carried out through lectures, workshops, reflection sessions and a variety of work assignments.

Social Media: training in innovative technologies as practical tools for shaping public opinion and building networks which promote openness and freedom

of expression. The social media training is carried out through workshops, practical assignments and group projects.

Knowledge-building: theoretical and practical perspectives on human rights and democracy issues through lectures, seminars and workshops by prominent speakers.

Practical Experience: practical assignments and projects run throughout the program in combination with study visits to Swedish authorities, organizations and institutions which operate in the spheres of culture, business and media.





Opinion makers in action

The YLVP 2008 group included mixed talents from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and Sweden. Between October 24 and November 15, 2008, 26 participants gathered in Stockholm for an intense three-week program providing innovative tools and inspiration in how to shape public opinion within the framework of democracy and human rights issues using the latest in 2.0.

The program integrated experience-based leadership training, training in cutting-edge social media through workshops, individual assignments and group projects, lectures on human rights issues, discussions and study visits to Swedish authorities, organizations and institutions working in the spheres of culture, society, business and politics.

The YLVP was summarized by the 2008 'Young Leaders Network Seminar' with high profile guests from Sweden as well as the MENA region. The seminar encouraged the exchange of ideas and experiences between opinion-makers of today.

During the program participants created prototypes for "future information solutions" using social media tools. These information solutions aimed at protecting, promoting and discussing human rights issues.

The YLVP brought together young, powerful forces for idea creation influence and change from the private and public sectors as well as the civil society.

Among the participants were journalists, bloggers, filmmakers, NGO activists, architects, artists, students and project managers—all committed to social change.

After three weeks of hard work the participants returned home. Despite their differences they all feel like they have laid down foundations for mutual trust and knowledge-sharing amongst each other. The participants state that they would recommend the program to others and that the YLVP has strengthened their capacity to promote freedom of expression and to work for social change issues in their respective contexts.



*// // I think this program represents
a really valuable initiative.*

Rabie Abulatifah (Palestine), Media Communications Officer



**Young Leaders
Visitors Program**

*Connecting leaders
for positive change*

YOUNG LEADERS VISITORS PROGRAM

The Young Leaders Visitors Program (YLVP) is an intercultural leadership program supporting development of young leaders through a combination of personal growth and practical experience. YLVP aims to enable the participants to build a platform for a more connected future.

Young, talented opinion-makers from North Africa and the Middle East are invited by the Swedish Institute to participate in an intense, challenging and rewarding experience in Sweden. This is a presentation of the program focusing on how cutting-edge social media can revolutionize public opinion and how the exchange of ideas and knowledge lead to positive change.

Read more about the Young Leaders Visitors Program:
WWW.SI.SE/YLVP

SI.

Swedish Institute

The Swedish Institute (SI) is a public agency that promotes interest and confidence in Sweden around the world. SI seeks to establish cooperation and lasting relations with other countries through strategic communication and exchange in the fields of culture, education, science and business.