

Bangladeshi Diaspora Leaders Programme

For leaders who want to increase their impact in Bangladesh and the UK – and build bridges between the two.



"We are delighted to partner with Common Purpose to bring together leaders from the UK diaspora with young leaders in Bangladesh through LEAD Bangladesh project to exchange knowledge, ideas and experience. We hope that it will be enriching for both, and provide the creative spark for exciting social action projects that will benefit local communities and the country as a whole." - Tom Miscioscia, Director –Bangladesh, British Council

About the programme

The collaboration between Common Purpose and the British Council began in 2015, with a programme for Bangladeshi and Pakistani diaspora leaders. We are now launching a new programme together as part of a new initiative called LEAD Bangladesh.

The aim is to support Bangladeshi Diaspora leaders to increase their impact both in Bangladesh and in the UK, and to provide mentorship and expertise to young leaders working on social action projects in Bangladesh. The social action projects will address three key areas of Bangladesh's development linked to the Sustainable Development Goals of Social entrepreneurship, Climate impact and Democratic inclusion.

We will build mentoring relationships between diaspora leaders in the UK and young leaders from the British Council's LEAD Bangladesh project in Bangladesh.

"I understood that to be a great leader it was vital that I was on the ground using my leadership skills, resources and commitment to drive and deliver the best results for all stakeholders. It was brilliant to explore my own current challenges during the programme. I really appreciated the support from the other diaspora leaders and finding out about their ideas too helped provide me with some new insights."—Shajan Miah, Participant, Bangladeshi and Pakistani Diaspora Leaders Programme 2015

Who is it for?

We invite applications from exceptional leaders from the Bangladeshi diaspora. Applicants can be in the early stage of their careers or more 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.

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 Bangladesh - 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
- develop their mentoring skills to support young people (aged 18-35) in Bangladesh.





The challenge

The programme focusses on a challenge: ***“How can we as Bangladeshi diaspora leaders support the young leaders of Bangladesh with information, knowledge and know how, to address the country’s development challenges through effective social action towards the SDGs”***

This challenge will provide the framework for the programme. Over three days participants are guided through a process of creativity and innovation, to explore the challenge through every possible angle—visiting organizations and meeting leaders with knowledge of Bangladesh, development challenges and/or diaspora leadership.

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.

The programme will also include a session on mentoring in preparation for the work with young leaders in Bangladesh.

Following a three day face-to-face programme and a half day online session, the participants will join the Common Purpose alumni community. Then they will be ‘matched’ with young leader mentees in Bangladesh. Through a structured mentoring programme over six months they will work with their mentees to provide support, ideas and expertise to help the young people with their social action projects.

In 2022, the young people will come to the UK to take part in a leadership programme, and the alumni mentors will be invited to join this programme to meet face to face with their mentees. This will be an opportunity to strengthen their mentoring relationship, and build on what they have worked on together over the previous months.





"The programme was a fantastic opportunity to meet other diaspora leaders from all across the UK, learn from them and also learn more about ourselves." –Afiya Begum, Participant, Bangladeshi and Pakistani Diaspora Leaders Programme 2015

Our Programmes in 2019

96%

Felt better able to build stronger working relationships

94%

Felt better able to have a greater impact in their organization and/or wider community

95%

Felt better able to adjust their behaviour in culturally diverse situations

How to apply:

Please click [here](#) to apply.

The application deadline is midnight (BST) on 23 August 2021.

Dates, time commitment and location?

5 – 7 October 2021, London for the diaspora leadership programme

17 November 2021, 3 hour online mentoring training

12 hours of mentor support online in 2022 to young leaders in Bangladesh (dates to be agreed)

1 day (date to be agreed) in 2022 in London to work with the mentees as part of their leadership programme.

What will it cost?

There is no cost to the participants to take part, the programme is funded by the British Council Bangladesh. There may be costs associated with travel and accommodation (as required). Some bursaries are available for those outside London.

Want to find out more?

If you would like to discuss the programme, please contact Ieva Kaleininkaitė at ieva.kaleininkaitė@commonpurpose.org





More information:

To learn more about the Bangladeshi Diaspora Leaders Programme, please visit <https://commonpurpose.org/bangladeshi-diaspora>

