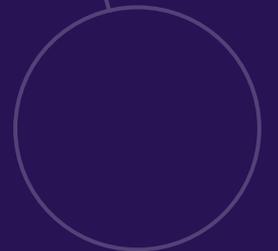




JOHN SMITH
TRUST



JOHN SMITH TRUST

Created in 1996 the John Smith Trust (JST) is a UK-based international not-for-profit organization that seeks to promote good governance, social justice and the rule of law by nurturing a new generation of leaders who are committed to making a difference in their countries and societies. Through its Fellowship Programmes JST aims to build leadership capacity and a network of change agents to strengthen social and economic development and build more transparent and accountable governance in regions where it greatly matters.

The Trust believes that effective politics, leadership and governance are fundamental to development and progress. By investing in individuals and giving them the opportunity to share learning and debate in new contexts, they will be better equipped to use their abilities to bring about beneficial change within the governance of their own countries particularly through targeted action plans. The JST network acts as a self-sustaining platform of local expertise in which members support one another in a shared mission for development, peace and security within their societies and region.

The Fellowship Programme

While the Fellowship involves a year-long engagement at its heart is a three week UK-based programme which offers participants the chance to explore collectively and individually how politics, business, public administration and culture work (or fail) in another national environment.

During the programme the Fellows value the challenge to their existing paradigms, finding out about each other's systems and receive in-depth learning through workplace attachments with relevant organisations and personal development meetings. The mutually-beneficial networking opportunities presented through these meetings and visits offer Fellows the chance to learn from well-established models and experiences that can assist them in delivering their action plans, whilst also giving hosts the opportunity to build relationships with the Fellows that might be of value in terms of their own work or policy goals. Since 2011 JST has placed Fellows with over 600 organisations and institutions within the UK. While UK experience is a major focus of the programme many of the speakers (who represent all sectors of UK society) have international expertise which they draw upon when talking through different issues.

"We became different... we enriched ourselves with new knowledge, new expertise, new contacts and new expanded visions."

Dina Biygishieva,
Fellow Russia



"The programme as a whole broadened my understanding and made me more enthusiastic to lead a change in my province and country."

Maysaa Al Tameemi,
Fellow Iraq



"There is so much good that can be done if we seize the opportunities which a modern world makes available."

Making an Impact



John Smith Trust Fellows are selected on the basis of their experience and ability to realise an action plan designed to benefit their societies and help build stronger states. The plans are developed and explored during their time in the UK and presented on the final day of the programme. JST continues to engage with each Fellow over the next twelve months as they begin to implement their projects. There are now over 400 John Smith Trust Fellows across the Middle East and Former Soviet space, many of whom occupy identifiable positions of leadership in their respective fields and have achieved significant change in their societies through the implementation of their action plans.

Securing Rights

For Women

Azerbaijan: Local laws and regulations to protect the rights of women and girls in Azerbaijan are rarely applied. 37% of women marry before the age of 18 while as many as 6% of girls in the south are married by the age of 12. Firuza Aliyeva was so concerned about the rights of women she was determined to use education to prevent early marriage. Since her Fellowship in 2013 Firuza has conducted awareness raising training programmes for parents from six of the poorest areas of rural Azerbaijan and seen a 4% increase in the number of students from rural communities going to university – one way to prevent early marriage.

Firuza Aliyeva, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy



For people with disabilities

Georgia: Despite signing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities it was never ratified and people with disabilities continue to be exploited and have their rights denied. Tinna Goletiani's action plan was to create a coalition of NGOs to lobby the government for ratification. Through Georgia's Reform Associates (an NGO she co-founded) she established a coalition and six months after her Fellowship and an intense campaign, the Convention was ratified.

Tinna Goletiani, Co-Founder Georgia's Reform Associates

For workers



Jordan: As a middle-income country with limited resources Jordan relies heavily on its human capital for development. Lana Nimri's action plan was to promote workers' rights in Jordan and in 2013 she founded an NGO to provide specialised mediation, labour relations training and legal support tools to help prevent and resolve labour disputes. Thanks to support from the UK Embassy and the Arab Partnership Fund, Lana has trained a pool of labour mediators and drafted a model labour contract.

Lana Nimri, Legal Advisor to the EU funded Projects managed by the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation

Strengthening the Economy

Building markets

Kyrgyz Republic: Whilst the state is making efforts to attract international investment its lack of sovereign rating, poor conditions for lending and general lack of financial understanding means that it fails to attract investors. Talant Sultanov's action plan involved producing a policy brief to improve the investment climate by developing financial markets. After returning to Kyrgyzstan he presented findings and recommendations some of which were a result of meetings with the Parliamentary Treasury Select Committee and UKTI and submitted his final report to the President's Administration and the Office of the Prime Minister. He is now trying to find a way to assign a sovereign rating for the Kyrgyz Republic.

Talant Sultanov, Vice President for Finance at the American University of Central Asia and Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies (NISS)

Diversifying the economy

Armenia: With 90% of industrial output in the Syunik region dependent on mining Armen Shahbazyan recognised the need for diversification. Through his UK attachments Armen heard about evidence-based policy making which led him to design a new economic model. In February 2014 the Government adopted Armen's diversification plan and is now about to implement it across the Syunik region.

Armen Shahbazyan, Co-ordinator of the OSCE Program Implementation Presence

Modernising infrastructure

Turkmenistan: Investment in financial institutions, modernisation and greater economic diversification is essential to ensuring that Turkmenistan's recent economic growth becomes sustainable. Recognising this need, Maksat Keshiev based his action plan on the rapid development of market relations in Central Asia by modernising infrastructure and establishing a Stock Exchange. Since his Fellowship in 2012 Maksat has successfully set up a 'Strong Payments System' ensuring that international payments can be made efficiently and joined visits on Stock Market development in Turkey and Poland.

Maksat Keshiev, Head of the Reporting, Information and Technologies Division of the Interbank Currency Exchange of Turkmenistan (ICET) at the Central Bank of Turkmenistan

Building the Rule of Law

Community Policing

Lebanon: In 2009 a public opinion poll conducted by the Internal Security Forces (ISF)/police showed that just 14% of the population trusted the police while most regarded it as out of touch and corrupt. A reform strategy was launched and community policing introduced. Tarek Mkanna was one of the officers involved and his action plan was to set up a new model police station to improve public accountability and build trust. The station opened in Beirut in January 2014. Today, officers receive training on codes of conduct, investigating crime, communications, community policing and how to deal with domestic violence.

Tarek Mkanna, Captain in the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF)



Raising legal awareness

Oman: One of the greatest challenges to the Rule of Law in any society is a lack of awareness of the law which can lead to legal infringements or people not being able to defend their rights. Seeing the lack of credible and reliable legal information Maimuna Al-Sulaimani's action plan was to establish the first bilingual legal magazine in the Gulf, called 'Law & Life', to raise awareness. Just months after attending the programme Maimuna launched the first edition with a print run of 3000 copies and has continued to published it once a month. She also organises monthly workshops on Rule of Law issues. Maimuna hopes to establish a 'Law & Life' think tank to drive these projects forward.

Maimuna Al-Sulaimani, Manager of Legal and Regulatory Affairs for the Oman Environmental Service Holding Company

Forging trust

Iraq: Successful implementation of the rule of law is at the heart of Iraq's re-development agenda following the 2003 war. In 2009 Haval Raouf initiated and led a project for a 10-year Rule of Law strategy for the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. His action plan was to turn this strategy into government policy. Since the Fellowship he has gained support from the Executive and Judicial branches of the KRG, and formed a group of 78 stakeholders working towards the strategy's implementation. Ultimately he hopes that citizens will be able to trust institutions to resolve their problems rather than turning to violence.

Haval Raouf, Rule of Law Advisor to the US Consulate in Erbil

"It was a transformative experience for me ... I have more confidence now in my future"

Nazar Chaaban, Fellow Lebanon



"This is a life-long relationship"

Mona Hejres, Fellow Bahrain

"An unspoken promise to live a meaningful life"

Andriy Shevchenko, Fellow Ukraine



"It is my belief that the public sector serves, and unites, the community in which markets and enterprise flourish."

Changing Policy

Developing foreign policy

Ukraine: Hanna Shelest believed that foreign policy development in Ukraine typically responded to the political will of different governments rather than to what made most strategic sense or was in the best interests of the whole state. She therefore aimed to increase the influence and cooperation between think tanks and the government by making foreign policy development more inclusive and objective. To realise her plan she ran an e-project which brought together 50 experts and civil activists from think tanks and human rights organisations. Since the recent crisis she continues to work with the new government to promote dialogue and ensure that civil society expertise is included in peaceful reconciliation policies.

Hanna Shelest, Senior Researcher at the National Institute for Strategic Studies

Electing for change

Moldova: Andrei Popov's action plan aimed to improve government efficiency by building government-civil society cooperation. At the time of his Fellowship in 2009 Andrei was Executive Director of an NGO which was specialised in foreign policy. Within a week of starting the Fellowship Andrei decided that entering government was the best way to influence change. He ran in the 2009 elections, won a seat and was appointed Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, where he served until 2013.

Andrei Popov, Moldovan Ambassador to Austria and the Slovak Republic, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the OSCE, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the UN in Vienna

Tackling corruption

Russia: With red tape blocking new ideas for economic, cultural, political and social development, tackling corruption is essential for modernisation. Alexander Konkov's idea was to stem corruption by building a comprehensive performance-based governance system which would increase accountability, transparency and efficiency. Between 2011 and 2012 he conducted efficiency evaluations of several National Programmes, promoted relations with international institutions and contributed to formulating performance-based indicators for the Russian Government.

Alexander Konkov, Head of International Peer-Review in the Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation

Giving Voice

Protecting journalists

Bahrain: Nazeera Saeed is a Bahraini journalist detained for her coverage during the 2011 uprising who now campaigns on the rights of media professionals during riots and when held in detention. Her plan involved a campaign to raise awareness of their plight. One recent indicator of success was the release of three photographers after a relatively short time in custody. She also encourages detainees' families to raise the profile of relatives and has successfully persuaded local newspapers to take up the cause.

Nazeera Saeed, Bahrain Correspondent for France 24

Accessing Information

Russia: Until 2012 there was a serious lack of communication between the Government of Dagestan and its departments and the public, breaching constitutional guarantees of the right to information. As a journalist and lawyer, Dina Biygishieva's plan focused on using legal channels to promote co-operation and communication between the government and media to improve public access to information. Following her Fellowship she drafted a comprehensive guidance paper which included establishing a press spokesperson within each Ministry and a media self-regulation charter. She has finally obtained the support of the Minister for Press and Information and her paper will be officially issued.

Dina Biygishieva, Legal Specialist for the Republican State Broadcasting Company 'RGVK Dagestan' and Producer of the legal based television programme The Legal Field

Press Freedom

Ukraine: Press Freedom in Ukraine has long been problematic with journalists having only limited access to public information. In 2011 a law was passed to address this but Sergii Andrushko, a prominent Ukrainian journalist, felt frustrated as it was rarely applied. Sergii's goal was to raise awareness and activate the law so that the government could no longer operate behind closed doors. Between 2011-2012 he launched a campaign which involved: raising awareness with journalists, local officials and students; participated in protest marches against unanswered Freedom of Information requests; and followed the stories of five individuals and groups in their struggles to obtain information. Within a year Sergii saw an increase in articles on corrupt officials being published across the country while the number of 'Access to Information' inquiries increased 110 fold.

Sergii Andrushko, Freelance Journalist



Speakers

Workshop sessions with expert speakers are led by JST Academic Director, Dr Brian Brivati

Professor Sir Jeffery Jowell KCMG QC: Director of the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law and Emeritus Professor of Public Law at University College London. Listed in The Times newspaper's inaugural 'Law 100: the UK's most powerful lawyers', where he was described as "a leading authority on public, constitutional and administrative law".

Professor Mary Kaldor: Professor of Global Governance and Director of the Civil Society and Human Security Research Unit at the London School of Economics and Political Science. A key figure in the development of the theory of cosmopolitan democracy, she writes on globalisation, international relations and humanitarian intervention, global civil society and global governance, and the 'New Wars'.

Jeremy Carver CBE: International lawyer with more than 40 years' experience representing and advising states and governments in boundary disputes, treaties, investments and development. He served as a Trustee/ Director of Transparency International-UK from 2001 to 2009. He is currently Senior Adviser to TI-UK and President of the International Law Association British Branch.

Professor Brian Cathcart: Professor of Journalism at Kingston University, and a founder of the 'Hacked Off' campaign for a free and accountable press. He served as special adviser to the Commons Media Select Committee in 2008-10 and has written books about the murders of Stephen Lawrence and Jill Dando.

Alastair Campbell: made his name as a political journalist with the Mirror Group. In 1994 he joined Tony Blair's team as press secretary and is credited with coining 'New Labour, New Britain' as the party's overall strategy leading to the landslide Labour Party victory in 1997. He worked alongside Prime Minister Blair as Spokesman and later as Director of Communications and Strategy.

Baroness Vivien Stern: Senior Research Fellow at the International Centre for Prison Studies at King's College London. She is also an Honorary President of Penal Reform International, of which she was a founder member and Secretary General from 1989-2005. She is currently a member of the parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights.

Sara Thornton: Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, the largest non-Metropolitan force in England and Wales. She is Vice President of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and she has been a Vice Chair of ACPO Terrorism and Allied Matters since 2010. She is also Director of the Police National Assessment Centre.

Ben Stewart: Head of Media at Greenpeace and activist. He was one of the Kingsnorth Six – the climate change activists who scaled the smokestack at a Kent power station before running a landmark crown court defence, securing acquittals. He was also one of the 114 activists detained in Greenpeace's global Arctic campaign.

"We are living at a time of great change a time of enormous challenge and opportunity. We are the architects of the 21st century."



“The opportunity to
serve our country -
that is all we ask.”

The John Smith Trust

The Trust was created to provide a permanent memorial to one of Britain's most respected politicians, who died suddenly in May 1994. John Smith was held in high affection because of the sincerity with which he promoted democracy, social justice and good governance. The aim of the Trust is to honour him by promoting the ideals that he held close to his heart.

Based in London the Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees and run by a small team led by Chief Executive, Janet Boston. It is supported by funding from Government Agencies, Corporates, Foundations and the generous contributions of speakers and attachment hosts who are drawn from the academic, not for profit, private and public sectors.

Trustees

The Rt Hon. the Lord Falconer of Thoroton, PC, QC (Chairman) and former Lord Chancellor

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