



# MCCAIN GLOBAL LEADERS PROGRAM

The McCain Global Leaders Program at the McCain Institute supports character-driven leaders from around the world who embody Senator John McCain's legacy of serving a cause greater than oneself and who are working to defend democracy and human rights.



# MCCAIN GLOBAL LEADERS PROGRAM

Structured as a 12-month non-residential fellowship and experiential learning experience, each cohort includes a diverse group of 25 leaders from around the world who are working “in the arena” to advance democracy, human rights, and freedom. The program is designed to advance each Leader’s personal and professional leadership journey and impact by providing training, resources, and access to highly relevant regional and global networks with the goal of preparing today’s leaders to meet tomorrow’s challenges.

## **A REGIONAL AND GLOBAL APPROACH:**

Each year, the McCain Institute picks a thematic focus area for each region in the world as well as a global theme and recruit participants who work on relevant issues related to each theme. Throughout the 12-month program, the Leaders participate in programming that is both regional and global with the goal of connecting them to a highly relevant and targeted professional peer group in their home region, as well as a broader and diverse network of global peers. Leaders also participate in three in-person events, which are enhanced by online learning, including expert-led practical skills trainings, an integrated leadership development curriculum inspired by Senator McCain’s legacy, and an emphasis on peer-mentoring and group problem-solving.





**12** MONTH  
NON-RESIDENTIAL  
FELLOWSHIP

# WORKING IN THE ARENA

**25** LEADERS





## COHORT PROFILE:

- Selected through a competitive, open global recruitment process.
- 25 Leaders per cohort, broken into 4 regional groupings.
- Age Range: 25-40.
- Commitment and passion for defending democracy and human rights.”
- Work directly on issues related to the regional theme in a decision-making role.
- Diversity in the form of gender, ethnicity, persons with disabilities, political viewpoint, economic background and education.



# PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

**The McCain Leadership Curriculum:** Throughout the program, Leaders participate in a curriculum that is administered both online and in person. The curriculum is designed to incorporate lessons and experiences from Senator McCain's life, to reinforce and augment in-person engagements and to focus on community building and group problem-solving. A central tenet of the curriculum is a dynamic peer-mentorship model, through which the Leaders support each other's journeys directly.



**The Leadership Experience (Annapolis, Maryland and Washington, D.C.):** The first in-person event of the program, the Leadership Experience, brings together all participants for the first time at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and in Washington, D.C. The 10-day-long program exposes leaders to the principles that guided Senator McCain's leadership approach and connects them with experts in their core thematic areas and with key decision-makers. Leaders will also work together with experts to establish their own leadership philosophy and goals.



**Practical Skills Modules:** Throughout the program, Leaders participate in a series of skills trainings and a structured curriculum that are designed to support their leadership journeys and reinforce in-person programming and community building. Trainings are designed based on needs articulated by program participants and led by experts around the world and the Leaders themselves. Sample topics include business development, program design and management, communication skills, navigating political processes, effectively utilizing technology, and other topics as requested by program participants.



**The Legacy Experience (Vietnam):** The capstone program of the 12-month journey will, for a second time, bring all Leaders together in a country of significance to Senator McCain's own leadership journey and a symbol of peace and reconciliation. The Legacy Experience will take place in Vietnam and examine the journey and relationship between Senator McCain and the people of Vietnam. During this seven-day trip, Leaders, MGL Alumni, and members of the Global Advisory Council will convene to reflect on their experience during the program, share how their own leadership philosophies have evolved, explore professional collaborations, outline the next steps of their leadership journey, and learn about the resources that they can access as program alumni.



**The Changemaker Tour (Host Country in Each Region):** The second in-person event of the program convenes each regional cohort for five-day regional study tours that provide exposure to that region's thematic area in a host country and focuses on developing targeted regional connections and networks while providing the opportunity to discuss solutions and ideas related to the theme. Past host countries have included: Colombia, Guatemala, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, and Taiwan.



# GLOBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL:

The program is supported by an active Global Advisory Council that is comprised of leaders and experts from around the world who represent government, academia, foreign affairs, national security, non-governmental organizations, humanitarianism and the private sector. The Council provides guidance to the program, participation in virtual and in-person programs, as well as mentorship to participants. The Council includes:

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## Co-Chairs :

### **Josette Sheeran**

*Founder & CEO, Firefly Global Group*  
United States

### **Elisa Massimino**

*Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress*  
United States

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### **David Axelrod**

*Director, University of Chicago  
Institute of Politics*  
United States

### **Kelvin Beachum**

*Arizona Cardinals*  
United States

### **Michelle Bekkering**

*Director of National Engagement,  
U.S. Global Leadership Coalition*  
United States

### **Scott Eisner**

*Senior Vice President, BGR's  
International and Trade Practice*  
United States

### **Virginia Foote**

*Senior Advisor, East Asia and Pacific,  
ASG*  
Vietnam

### **Joe Harper**

*COO, REB Capital Management*  
United States

### **Hannah Vaughan Jones**

*Broadcaster and Journalist*  
United Kingdom

### **David Kirk**

*Co-Founder and President,  
EOS Tech Trust*  
United States

### **Seohyun Lee**

*North Korean Defector*  
United States

### **James McCain**

*McCain Family*  
United States

### **H.R. McMaster**

*Former National Security Advisor*  
United States

### **Nate Mook**

*Special Advisor on Ukraine, Howard G.  
Buffett Foundation*  
United States

### **Juliet Mureriwa**

*Senior Program Officer, Office of the  
President, Ford Foundation*  
South Africa

### **Lida Noory**

*MGL Alumna and State Department  
Advisor*  
United States

### **Wai Wai Nu**

*Founder and Executive Director,  
Women Peace Network*  
Myanmar

### **Katya Rimkunas**

*Regional Deputy Director, Latin  
America and the Caribbean,  
International Republican Institute*  
United States

### **Ali Soufan**

*Founder, The Soufan Center*  
United States

### **Jean Sung**

*Executive Director and Head of the  
Philanthropy Centre, J.P. Morgan  
Private Bank, Asia Pacific*  
Hong Kong

### **Lauren Tilstra**

*Strategic Communications Advisor,  
Verizon*  
United States

### **Djordje Todorovic**

*International Consultant*  
Serbia

### **Leon Toh**

*Executive Director, Damson Capital*  
Singapore

### **Justin Wein**

*Senior Advisor for Legislative Affairs,  
FinCEN*  
United States

## ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT AND NETWORK:

It is vital to the success of the McCain Institute's leadership programs to have continual and meaningful engagement with alumni. The McCain Global Leaders, upon program completion, will be welcomed into an active and responsive alumni community that will connect them with other cohorts, as well as alumni of other McCain Institute leadership programs. The alumni will be engaged through a new Alumni Advisory Board (comprised of alumni from the previous Next Generation Leaders program) that will help drive the future of the program, a quarterly Continual Learning Series and an annual McCain Global Leaders Summit.







**MCCAIN  
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**GLOBAL LEADERS**

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