



PROGRAMME FOR
AFRICAN LEADERSHIP®



Firoz Lalji Institute
for Africa

Catalysts of Change: A Year in Review PfAL12 Recap!



Congratulations to the 12th cohort of PfAL and welcome to the PfAL alumni network!

It has been an extraordinary year, with new initiatives and successful events. Some of our highlights were the Ubuntu Café, a creative and empowering space for Africans and friends of Africa at LSE, and the inaugural PfAL Speakers Series, a very engaging event where the students had the opportunity to network and learn from the career journey of influential leaders residing on the continent.

We had the privilege to learn from so many proud young Africans with a vision and purpose to impact a continent. We are delighted to welcome the 12th cohort of PfAL into our growing network of African leaders. On behalf of the PfAL family, we would like to thank our founder, Firoz Lalji for his continued commitment to the Programme, and our colleagues at the Institute, our partners, and friends of PfAL for supporting the now and next generation.

Tosin Adebisi and Daniela Gutiérrez-Torres
The PfAL team



This is PFAL!

The Program for Africa Leadership (PFAL) kicked off its 12th cohort in October 2022 and what an exciting journey it has been! Through various focused sessions, capacity training and lots of fun, members have had a remarkable time developing skills and insights that would enable them stand out as African leaders as they progress in their journey.

The PfAL cohort was welcomed specially by the founder of the programme, Firoz Lalji. In his welcome address he reminded the participants the unique opportunity PfAL affords them to join the next generation of African leaders, learn value-based leadership, advocacy, collaboration and networking. In his words

“I am proud to welcome the cohort of PfAL 12 to the PfAL alumni network. PfAL is not just a leadership programme but a preparation for service and impact drawing on the spirit of Ubuntu and the PfAL code. It was a pleasure to meet many of you at the LSE and I look forward to following your journeys”.

He met with a section of the cohort and personally shared his vision for PfAL, their growth, journey and success throughout their studies.





After a series of welcome activities including a network reception and introduction to leadership training with Dr. Vanessa Iwowo, the PFAL year kicked off with the first Ubuntu Café for the year. The event brought together PFAL alumni, African professionals and friends of the African community in London for a night of laughter, bonding and networking. Hosted by PfALers, the event featured musical and poetry performances and an incisive panel discussion session on Africans in the Diaspora: Brain Drain or Brain Gain. with Dr Lucy Kanya, and Dr Uche Igwe.

Catch up on all the details of the event here:



PfAL Leadership Development Sessions

Throughout the year, PfAL students had multiple leadership training sessions with Dr. Vanessa Iwowo a multi-award-winning leadership development and change consultant at LSE. She took PfAL students through modules on change leadership, tackling biases and navigating complexities in organisational and developmental leadership.



Ronak Gopaldas took students through a series of critical thinking and problem-solving workshops. The PfAL students were divided into groups and came up with solutions to African challenges across trade, development and service industries. The session enabled them to work connectedly to develop proposals and solutions to some of the continents' leading challenges in these sectors.

PfAL Leadership Development Sessions

In partnership with Ashoka, a pioneering global platform with the world's largest networks of social entrepreneurs, PfAL students had two special sessions where they learnt the skills to write a project proposal and the power of storytelling to pitch an idea. Filled with practical insights, fun and teamwork, each person was tasked to reflect on their personal experiences, decide what perspectives of their lives they would love to share and then craft a unique powerful story. The sessions were so impactful and enabled participants to review how they present themselves and interact with the world around them.



The PfAL Project Competition

The PfAL Project Competition tasked participants to develop and pitch a project or campaign to tackle continental issues through various solutions.

The cohort was divided into ten teams and each team brainstormed to develop a viable solution to challenges on the continent, the topics were aligned with the African Union's Youth Decade Plan of Action focused on five key priority areas:

- 1) Education and Skills Development
- 2) Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship
- 3) Governance, Peace and Security
- 4) Youth Health and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
- 5) Agriculture, Climate Change and the Environment

Each project was then presented to our special panel of judges who then accessed the ideas based on the project's potential to engage, intended positive impact, strategic rationale, creativity, deliverability, and value. Our judges included Paroma Bhattacharya, LSE Fellow in Management (Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship); Fukun Aluko, Digital Leader and Tech Talent Builder: ProdTec and PfAL alumni; Julie Sané-Pezet co-founder of ALLY; Olaoluwa Samuel-Biyi Co-Founder of SureGroup and Partner at Hacked Capital; and Leslie Labruto, Founding Director 100x Impact Accelerator.

The PfAL Project Competition

“I had a wonderful time judging the Programme for African Leadership Pitching competition, 10 student teams pitched their ideas for social impact projects, ranging from peace building in DRC to tackling ocean pollution in Ghana, very inspiring” Dr. Paroma Bhattacharya.

This year’s outstanding finalists included Project Impact Durumi, PfAL GPS, Tidy Tides and By Africa Boosting Intra-African Trade.

The winners of the final round were: Project Impact Durumi, whose goal was to improve the livelihoods of 100 IDPs in the Durumi Camp, and PfAL GPS, a hub of like-minded individuals focused on leading positive change in Africa.







The PFAL Debates

The PfAL debates provided a unique opportunity for members of the current cohort to discuss topical issues facing the continent.

- Regional integration is Africa's only route to prosperity; this is why the AfCFTA cannot fail.
- African states have no choice but to adopt a 'one-child policy.'
- African states have a moral duty to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PfAL'ers came together to deliberate these topics through the motions assigned to them. The students engaged in the Oxford Union style debates and were assessed on the organisation, clarity and use of their arguments, the use of cross-examination and rebuttal, and presentation style.

Interesting points such as the fact that regional integration alone cannot replace the challenges of poor institutions and human development and even well integrated regions seem not to be economically excellent were brought up by the debaters and brought fresh perspectives to the challenge of developing integrated African Trade.



PFAL Lunch and Learn

Lunch and Learn sessions afforded PFAL'ers an incredible opportunity to share their work and personal stories of impact. Held usually at lunchtime, PFAL'ers would take their colleagues and other participants through their own personal journeys of impact across career, social development and learning. It created a unique environment for connection and enabled participants to learn more about each other.

This year, there were two editions of the PfAL Lunch and Learn. PfAL'ers Elizabeth Mwambulukutu shared her work with arts and culture for development, Dapo Oyewole spoke on the legislative mentorship initiative and inclusive leadership in the Nigerian government, and Mariam Dahir shared on her impressive work fighting FGM in Somaliland. For the second edition, Atsu Latey shared his work creating Ghana's first toll-free mental health service, Uche Ogechukwu spoke on his experience solving energy challenges in Nigeria and Nadine Whelpton shared her work on sexual education in secondary schools in Uganda.



International Women's Day Celebration

To celebrate IWD 2023, PfAL had a special session to commemorate the day with participation from women and students from within and outside the LSE community. Curated and anchored by current PfAL'er Dr Mariam Dahir, the session featured a special address by H.E Toyin Saraki President of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa. In her remarks, she encouraged women to continue to push the frontiers of development and the relevance of using digital technology to achieve gender equality. She also highlighted the phenomenal work done by her foundation to leverage technology to reduce maternal mortality and provide access to healthcare for Nigerian women.

Next, Amina Ibrahim founder of Digital Health Transformation UK, gave a keynote on the remarkable ways digital technology enabled health workers (especially women) to respond to the healthcare crises in Somaliland. By sharing ideas from specialists in the UK using digital tools, her team accelerated knowledge and reduced mortality in Somaliland during the critical period of the pandemic.

The evening also featured a special panel with PfAL'ers Hope Obamwonyi and Nkechi Adeboye, who shared their experiences as rising leaders in their fields and shared their views on how to better promote gender equality using technology. The night was rounded up by a beautiful ode to women with the poem 'Dear Woman' by Victory Osarumwense.





The PfAL Speaker Series

In March 2023, PfAL held its first Speaker Series which highlighted intimate conversations on career, life and leadership with leading voices across the continent. Our speakers for this inaugural edition included Chido Mpemba- AU Youth Envoy, Temilade Salami - founder Ecochampons, Hanan Morsy- Chief Economist at The UN Economic Commission for Africa, Dapo Oyewole -Special adviser to the Speaker of The House of Representatives of The Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Lawrence N Muli Co-founder and Head of Public Policy and Partnerships ADRES.

Hosted by current PfAL'ers Yoofi and Mahilet, the session offered personal insights from the speakers on how to navigate career transitions, position for global opportunities and build their careers and their transition to the labour market.

Temilade also gave a remarkable presentation on leveraging social media for professional growth and development. The students also had an opportunity to network, ask questions and get personalized feedback from the speakers.





PfAL Connect

The PFAL community attended the inaugural edition of PfAL Connect in April, bringing together PfAL Alumni to speak with the current cohort on career transitions and positioning themselves for the global talent market. Find more details on the event here:



PFAL CONNECT

Join us for an Interactive session with insights from PfAL alumni on career transitions, positioning and leveraging global opportunities while still at the LSE.

This Thursday

Date: April 27, 2023
Time: 4pm - 5pm BST
Online event



PfAL Hangouts!

Throughout the year, PfALers had numerous opportunities to hang out and have fun! From game nights to dinners, there were so many opportunities to bond and unwind in a relaxed atmosphere away from academic work. These formed some of the best moments of the program.









World Africa Day Celebration

To commemorate Africa Day on the 25th of May, PfAL held a special Ubuntu Café that brought together Africans and lovers of the continent together for a special evening of fun, laughter, food and a celebration of Africa's essence. With partnership from Ashoka, African Originals, Chevening and The Miss Pride of Africa Pageants UK, the event featured beautiful performances, a fashion show and debates on Africa's development.

It also included the launch of the book *How Africa Trades* by Professor David Luke.

Catch all the highlights of the day here:





PfAL Elevate Sessions

To kick start the summer term, PfAL hosted special coaching sessions on careers development with Mojo Othol, Dr. Akanimo Odom and Frances Williams. The session with Mojo enabled the cohort to reflect on their career journey as they headed into the final stages of the programme, the lessons they had learnt, their current values and the kind of future they would consider fulfilling. She tasked each one to think critically about the things they consider most important in their lives as they begin making career and other long-term decisions. In the second session, Dr Akanimo challenged the cohort to begin to identify the unique placement their African roots and experience at LSE gave them to advance in their careers. By positioning and promoting themselves this way, he stated that young leaders could accelerate their career prospects and opportunities. He highlighted the importance of branding and positioning themselves as professionals even before the degree was over, as well as constantly leveraging the skills taught during the MSC programs to show thought leadership. Finally, Frances Williams provided the cohort with the tools to develop a winning strategy to accelerate their careers in the UK or work in a different country. This strategy included clarifying their value, writing a powerful CV and cover letters, and making the right connections to find the best opportunities in today's competitive job market.

PwC visit and careers workshop

As part of the career development activities, we partnered with PwC UK to create a unique experience for the students. They had the opportunity to visit the PwC headquarters to learn and network with PwC employees, recruiters, and partners. They also heard inspirational stories from aspiring leaders who shared career advice, and their career journeys and experiences. The sessions were facilitated by Yoursra Ahmed Abdelmoneim, Senior Manager in Commercial Control and PfAL coach, and Laolu Adesina, Senior Associate in Risk Line and PfAL alumna. The evening continued with a very engaging careers workshop where the students learned about interviewing techniques and the consulting industry. The students also had the chance to take a tour of the office and take some photos of the best views of the London skyline. To finalise a very exciting day of activities the PfAL'ers attended a reception and networking session with PwC partners and other staff members leading very interesting projects.



PwC visit and careers workshop



Dissertation Bootcamp

We know that the most stressful period for any student is the dissertation stage so staff from the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa came together to offer a Dissertation Bootcamp. The first part of the bootcamp offered students an opportunity to think through their research at a 'Build your Thesis with Lego' workshop facilitated by Professor Simon Thompson and PfAL Manager, Tosin Adebisi. The second part of the bootcamp offered students a chance to receive top strategies for success from Dr Souad Mohamed who facilitated a brilliant 'Distinction Dissertation' workshop. The bootcamp closed with an interactive session where students were able to discuss their outline with researchers at the Institute.



PFAL DISSERTATION BOOTCAMP

The Dissertation Bootcamp will be an opportunity to learn tips and strategies, receive feedback on your work so far and spend time dedicated developing your thesis.

AGENDA

- Interactive workshop
- Immersive writing day

JOIN OUR EVENT



JULY 13, 2023
10 am - 5 pm



FAW 9.05 (Research
Suites above the
FLIA)

The PfAL Graduation

The Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa held the graduation ceremony for students on the Programme for African Leadership (PfAL) and welcomed over 90 new members to the PfAL alumni network now numbering over 700! In the celebratory occasion, the institute manager Martha Geiger Mwenitete congratulated the students on completing the programme while PfAL Founder, Firoz Lalji addressed the students through his own story challenging them to pay it forward and contribute to driving the continent forward. In his words

“The power of this network is massive and for the rest of your lives through this network you can further your careers and leverage resources in any African country. The goal and objective of PfAL is to create the next generation of African leaders. Part of your journey is to find your passion and leverage it. Make use of your time wisely, during your journey, think about legacy vs creating a dynasty, history shows that dynasties don’t last, focus on building legacies instead.”

In her special remark, Chido Mpemba, the African Union Youth Envoy employed the graduands to keep dreaming and leverage all of their experiences to create new possibilities as they progress. The keynote address was given by Bogolo Joy Kenewendo, Chairperson of the Board, Bank Gaborone and the youngest cabinet member of the Government of Botswana. She advised the students to be audacious in their approach and seek to create opportunities wherever they find themselves. These two outstanding African voices then presented certificates of completion to the PfAL 12 cohort.

The PfAL Graduation

Members of the PfAL cohort Aloysious Tumusiime and PfAL vice-president Mariam Dahir evoked the spirit of Ubuntu, encouraged their peers to stay connected to the network and reminded them that ‘if you want to go fast, go alone but if you want to go far, go together’. Aloysious shared in his powerful speech, his journey to LSE and the significance of the PfAL community, you can watch his speech [here](#).



What a year! And what an amazing cohort the PfAL 12 has been! With the skills learnt, and social and academic networks built, there is no doubt this set of changemakers are ready to take on the world and create solutions, policies, and initiatives that would provide transformational impact to the continent and the global stage. We look forward to watching this promising and amazing future unfold.









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