The Maryam Forum: Transformative Leadership for an Uncertain World

The problem we're trying to solve

The world faces multiple, urgent and complex challenges on an unprecedented scale. From climate change to sluggish global growth, a changing financial architecture, to human mobility and disinformation, courageous leadership is needed to navigate our future. Yet, many parts of the world are characterised by conflicting national interests, a lack of accountability and by corruption. Against this backdrop, the COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the world and revealed a widespread lack of transparent, inclusive and accountable leadership.

The transformative leadership we urgently need must be grounded in evidence and exercised by leaders from and representing the full breadth of our global communities. For it to emerge, we need stronger links between research and policy, alongside an ecosystem that encourages meritocracy, accountability and inclusion.

From rulership to leadership

The Maryam Forum is a multi-year programme aimed at accelerating the development of exactly this kind of leadership by:

- Establishing policy-relevant research goals set by a unique platform of academics, policy makers, business leaders and students;
- Integrating research into policymaking;
- Offering a range of policy options to inform policy makers and societies;
- Developing a values-based ecosystem with meritocracy, inclusion, and accountability to foster the emergence of a new generation of leaders.

Taking its name for its cross-cultural roots and gender, the Maryam Forum was introduced on the global stage at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos in January 2020. Its virtual launch took place on 2 July with some 20 high-level policy and academic panels that focused on leadership challenges in the COVID world. The Forum's second strategic debate took place on 11 September with renowned academics and high-level policy makers including former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Senior Minister of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam and business leader Lord David Sainsbury.

The Maryam Forum is a product of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), one of the world's leading universities, and its Institute of Global Affairs (IGA) at the new LSE School of Public Policy (SPP).

Co-Labs: a challenge-driven coalition of partners

Key to delivering on the Forum's ambition is a series of **'Maryam Co-Labs'** that we launched in Autumn 2020. These year-round working groups are developing and seeking to implement innovative research-based policy solutions to six global challenges critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely:

1. Global Emergencies and Responses
2. Innovation and Inclusive Growth
3. Rethinking Global Finance and the Global Financial Architecture
4. Human Mobility
5. Democracy and Disinformation
6. Climate and the Oceans

To foster a better leadership ecosystem, the Co-Labs each comprise a coalition of representatives of the Forum's different partner groups. By unlocking the power of collaboration across diverse perspectives, the Co-Labs aim to co-create the most effective strategies and approaches that leaders might deploy to address global problems. Membership of each Co-Lab includes participants from both developed and emerging regions, characterised by diversity. The Co-Labs are supported by deep engagement with LSE students and faculty, with students from LSE's School of Public Policy playing a key role throughout – including by conducting and supporting research.

The Maryam Annual Forum:
The first Maryam Annual Forum is scheduled for 8-10 December 2020. The Annual Forum will build upon the discussions and findings of each of the six Co-Labs with a view to highlighting, in particular, policy-relevant research findings and policy recommendations. During the Annual Forum, the work and results of each of the Co-Labs will be presented, discussed and challenged.

The key findings from the Co-Labs and the discussions during the Annual Forum will be distilled into the *Maryam Forum's Call to Action* – a concise public letter to global and national leaders identifying policy options and related specific actions on urgent priorities.

In the spirit of mutual accountability, the Maryam Forum Call to Action will also contain commitments on behalf of the Maryam Forum for the coming year, including research to be carried out and funded by the Forum; as well as on its broader efforts to foster the next generation of leaders.

Maryam Forum at LSE - Building Transformational Leadership