



UNIVERSITY
SCHOLARS
LEADERSHIP
SYMPOSIUM

HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS ASIA

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PRESENTS

13TH UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

LEAD THE CHANGE

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA | AUGUST 5 TO 8, 2025



WHERE PASSION MEETS PURPOSE

Ever felt like the world's problems are too big to solve? Climate change, inequality, injustice—it's a lot. But here's the thing: you're not alone. Imagine joining a movement of bold, passionate young changemakers who refuse to sit on the sidelines. A community where your ideas matter, your voice is heard, and your actions create real impact.

This is your chance to turn passion into purpose. To connect with like-minded innovators, dreamers, and doers. To gain the skills, support, and inspiration to tackle the issues you care about most. No more waiting. No more wondering where to start.

The future isn't written yet—it's shaped by those who dare to take action. Are you ready to step up, make a difference, and leave your mark on the world?

The journey starts now. Let's change the world together.



IGNITE YOUR PURPOSE

What if you had the power to transform the world - one bold step at a time? At the University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS), we believe that every great leader begins with a spark - a passion for change, the persistence to keep going, the patience to grow, and a purpose that fuels the journey.

USLS isn't just an event; it's a movement. It's where aspiring changemakers from around the world come together to challenge injustice, amplify unheard voices, and take meaningful action against global crises like climate change and injustice. It's a space where ideas collide, collaborations thrive, and leadership is redefined.

Through inspiring talks, hands-on community engagement, and thought-provoking discussions, you'll gain the confidence and skills to launch impactful projects in your own community. This is your moment to step up, stand out, and be the leader the world needs.

Let your passion ignite your purpose. Join USLS and turn your vision into action - because the world is waiting for you.

BECOME A PIONEER

POTENTIAL. Develop leadership competencies such as communication skills, public speaking, and empathy.

INSPIRATION. Learn from humanitarian heroes and transformational leaders through their motivational speeches.

OPPORTUNITY. Initiate socially meaningful projects addressing climate change, poverty, and inequality.

NETWORKING. Connect with like-minded peers from around the world committed to positive social change.

ENGAGEMENT. Participate at the Service Learning Day and advocate for people, environment and animals.

ENLIGHTENED. Join our community of Global Changemakers to advance the UNSDG.

RESOURCEFUL. Accelerate your career in social change, advocacy work, and humanitarian affairs.

The USLS isn't just an event; it's your launchpad into a world of possibilities. Be part of a community where your passion for humanity meets a network of like-minded emerging leaders. Your journey towards becoming a humanitarian superstar starts here, and the impact lasts a lifetime.



GREATEST BLESSINGS



Reflecting on the incredible weeklong symposium, I am still in awe of over 1,000 minds coming together with a shared purpose. The University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) has been the most profound and transformative experience of my university years.

Every speaker and their powerful words left me inspired, evoking emotions I had never experienced before. Each session resonated deeply, igniting a passion within me that I never knew existed.

As I write this, I have goosebumps, and my eyes well up simply reminiscing about the moments we shared. We laughed, we cried, we cared, and were cared for - but above all, we learned.

I encourage everyone to attend at least one USLS, even if you haven't yet discovered your role in making a difference. This symposium nurtures the humanitarian spirit within us all. The world is our oyster, and together, we create its pearls.

Anne Wandu
Coventry University, UK

MY NEW SELF



As I think back on my time at the University Scholars Leadership Symposium(USLS), I find it difficult to explain my emotions. It was a week so jam-packed with discovery, that by the end of it I found my new self. As an individual, I felt insignificant in the bigger picture but my week at the USLS has empowered me and I now feel unstoppable.

Our generation has privilege, but we must not forget that this comes with responsibility. The symposium taught me that change comes from within and starts at home. Young people are working to help solve poverty, climate change, war, suffering, and more – together we can have an impact on the world. I urge you to become part of this global impact, this global movement for social justice.

Profound talks will undoubtedly inspire you but having the opportunity to network and discuss your aspirations with likeminded people is what makes attending USLS special. I took inspiration from the delegates I met and have made lifelong friends. Alone it can be difficult but together we can make a difference.

I encourage anyone with a heart that yearns to do more for this world to attend the USLS as you will not regret it. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity not to be missed as the symposium is only for those still attending universities.

Emma Webb
University of London



WHERE GLOBAL LEADERS MEET

The USLS will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a cosmopolitan city with a rich cultural heritage and diverse racial communities. As the capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur is a vibrant metropolis known for its iconic skyline, bustling markets, and world-class infrastructure. The city seamlessly blends tradition and modernity, with historic temples and colonial architecture standing alongside towering skyscrapers.

Malaysia itself is renowned for its cultural diversity, where Malay, Chinese, Indian, and indigenous traditions coexist harmoniously. This multicultural society is reflected in its festivals, cuisine, and daily life, making it an ideal setting for global discussions and collaboration. Kuala Lumpur serves as a key economic and diplomatic hub in Southeast Asia, hosting numerous international conferences that address pressing global issues, including sustainable development and economic growth.

With its strategic location, dynamic environment, and commitment to fostering global partnerships, Kuala Lumpur provides an inspiring backdrop for the USLS, ensuring meaningful exchanges and impactful discussions.



KINDNESS IN ACTION

Kindness Day at the 13th University Scholars Leadership Symposium is more than just an event—it's an electrifying force, a surge of unity, compassion, and the relentless drive to create real change. It doesn't just leave a mark; it ignites a movement, shaping a new generation of leaders who transform intention into action.

This symposium isn't about empty promises—it's a catalyst for impact. Here, young leaders don't just dream of a better world; they build it, proving that even the smallest acts of kindness can spark extraordinary transformations.

But USLS is more than a gathering—it's an orchestra of inspiration, where the rhythm of unity, the melody of compassion, and the harmony of meaningful action converge. It's a platform that walks the talk, leaving a legacy of kindness, hope, and empowerment.

This isn't just an event—it's a revolution of hearts and minds, shaping tomorrow's changemakers, one act of kindness at a time.



UNLEASH YOUR INNER HERO

Step into a world where superheroes aren't just in comics—they're real, and they're you! Join us for an electrifying panel discussion, "Your Journey to Becoming a Changemaker," where ideas ignite, brilliance sparks, and inspiration takes center stage.

This isn't just a conversation - it's a gateway to unlocking your potential. Picture the curtain rising on the world's biggest challenges, and in that pivotal moment, young minds like yours collide with creativity, passion, and the unstoppable drive to make a difference.

More than just a learning experience, these workshops are launchpads for future leaders, shaping a world that's cooler, kinder, and more balanced. You won't just leave informed - you'll walk away with the superhero skills to turn vision into action and make our world truly extraordinary!



WHERE CONVERSATIONS BREW IMPACT

More than just a place to sip coffee, the Coffee Corner for Changemakers is a hub of inspiration, connection, and transformation. In a world driven by ideas and action, this space becomes a melting pot where passionate minds gather, fuelled by the shared vision of creating a better tomorrow.

Here, the aroma of coffee blends with the energy of changemakers - young leaders, visionaries, and pioneers - engaging in conversations that spark innovation and ignite purpose. Each discussion is more than words; it's a catalyst for action, a step toward meaningful change.

At USLS 2025, Humanitarian Affairs Asia curates this unique experience, recognizing that some of the most powerful movements begin with a simple conversation. The Coffee Break for Changemakers isn't just a break from the program - it's an invitation to dive deeper, connect with like-minded individuals, and emerge with renewed passion and bold ideas.

This is more than a networking space; it's where the seeds of transformation are planted. Every cup poured is a step toward a more impactful, empowered future - one conversation at a time.

SPEAKERS SPOTLIGHT



FROM IDEAS TO IMPACT

Cristian Fleming, Principal and Designer at The Public Society in New York, is a storyteller who speaks through the universal language of design. In the vibrant creative hub of New York, Cristian stands out for his ability to transform abstract ideas into powerful visual narratives that challenge perceptions and spark meaningful conversations.

Cristian's approach to design is deeply rooted in human connection and societal dynamics. He creates work that goes beyond aesthetics to inspire dialogue and drive impact. For him, design is more than a medium - it's a tool for change, bridging creativity with purpose and amplifying voices that need to be heard.

Through his thoughtful and intentional process, Cristian crafts compelling visual stories that resonate across platforms, breaking traditional boundaries of communication. His work provokes, engages, and leaves a lasting impression, earning him recognition as a leader in leveraging design as a force for social transformation.

Join Cristian on a journey where design becomes a catalyst for change, inspiring new ways of thinking and connecting the world through bold, innovative storytelling.



IMPACTING THE UN AGENDA

Felipe Queipo, Programme Management and Communications Officer at the UN Department of Global Communications, passionately advocates for youth empowerment and global change. Committed to advancing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he champions young leaders as key drivers of transformation.

A skilled communicator, Felipe highlights the power of education, diplomacy, and collaboration in shaping a sustainable future. He inspires youth to take bold action, dismantle barriers, and hold leaders accountable for responsible resource management.

Felipe believes the next generation's energy, passion, and creativity are vital for a better world. Through his talks and dedication to the UN's mission, he urges young people to embrace their roles as global citizens. His story is a powerful call to action - encouraging youth to turn the SDGs into real impact and lead the change the world urgently needs.



BEING AN OPTIMIST

Chris Temple is a visionary filmmaker who transforms storytelling into a catalyst for social change. As the director and co-founder of Optimist, he uses documentaries as strategic tools to challenge perceptions, amplify marginalised voices, and inspire action.

Through acclaimed films like *Living on One Dollar* and *This Is Not Financial Advice*, Chris creates intimate, human-centred narratives that push beyond traditional media. Each film anchors an impact campaign, urging audiences to engage with critical global issues.

His work has earned international recognition, raising over \$114 million for causes like poverty alleviation and refugee support. Recognised alongside leaders like Bill Gates, Chris proves that media can drive empathy, spark understanding, and inspire transformation.

With every project, he redefines film as more than just a medium—it's a bridge to compassion, a tool for advocacy, and a call to action for a better world.



FROM POVERTY TO POSSIBILITY

Nelly Cheboi left a lucrative software engineering job in Chicago in 2019 to build computer labs for Kenyan schoolchildren. In 2022, she was named CNN Hero of the Year.

Growing up in poverty, Cheboi experienced firsthand the challenges of limited educational resources. A full scholarship to Augustana College in the U.S. changed her path, but she arrived with no computer skills. Determined to learn, she mastered touch-typing and coding—skills that would later shape her mission.

While working in the software industry, she noticed companies discarding valuable computers. In 2018, she began personally transporting donated devices to Kenya. A year later, she co-founded TechLit Africa, a nonprofit that provides digital education to young learners.

Through innovation and strategic partnerships, Cheboi empowers students with coding, graphic design, and digital skills, proving that access to technology can unlock opportunities and shape a brighter future.



LEARNING IN SECRET

Erfanullah Abidi is a global changemaker dedicated to education and youth empowerment. A UNESCO Adelaide Human Rights Award recipient, he blends activism with strategic leadership to drive meaningful change.

Born in Kabul, Abidi defied Afghanistan's educational restrictions by creating an underground school for girls during Taliban rule. These secret classrooms became sanctuaries of resistance, providing hope and learning despite oppressive barriers.

With experience in NATO and Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior Affairs, Abidi specialises in conflict resolution, educational policy, and community development. His academic background in social entrepreneurship and international development strengthens his transformative work.

Through innovative programs and strategic partnerships, Abidi continues to create sustainable opportunities for vulnerable youth. His work proves that education transcends political barriers, empowering the next generation to shape a better future.



THE POWER OF A VOICE

Charlotte Yeung is a UN Youth Disarmament Champion, activist, and author dedicated to using storytelling and education for social change. As a New Voices on Nuclear Weapons Fellow for the Federation of American Scientists, she was a civil society observer at the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the UN and collaborates with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs to plant A-bomb trees across the U.S. and South America, preserving history while advocating for peace.

A poet and educator, Yeung served as the Midwest Youth Poet Ambassador and Indianapolis Youth Poet Laureate, using her words to highlight resilience and justice. She founded a poetry course for women and girls in Afghanistan and later taught at an underground school under Taliban rule. As a Frederick Douglass Fellow, she performed poetry at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in Dublin, exploring systemic oppression and leadership.

In 2025, her multilingual poem will be sent to the moon via the Lunar Codex, etching her words among the stars. Currently, she studies Political Science at Freie Universität, Bristol University, Waseda University, and Purdue University, focusing on advocacy, education, and the arts.



HOW SMALL ACTS CREATE BIG IMPACT

Jeff Rotmeyer has turned compassion into a force for social change in Hong Kong. As the founder and CEO of ImpactHK and Love 21 Foundation, he is dedicated to supporting the city's homeless community.

What began as offering sandwiches and conversation has become a comprehensive organisation providing relief and dignity. Through ImpactHK, Rotmeyer has helped hundreds rebuild their lives with shelter, food, job training, and mental health support.

His approach combines immediate aid with long-term rehabilitation, challenging stereotypes and recognising the worth of every individual. Rotmeyer's work proves that small acts of kindness can spark lasting transformation, inspiring others to take action for a more compassionate society.



FISTS TO HOPE

Bahir Ahmad, an MMA champion, transitioned from the world of sports to becoming a crusader for street kids in Pakistan. Originating from a background of physical prowess, Bahir redirected his passion toward a compassionate cause. Witnessing the plight of marginalised street children, he founded initiatives aimed at their welfare and education. Through sports programs and educational interventions, Bahir seeks to uplift these vulnerable youths, providing them opportunities for a brighter future. His journey from the MMA arena to the streets reflects a remarkable transformation, illustrating the profound impact one individual can have in addressing societal challenges and championing the cause of those often overlooked.



BRINGING HOPE TO MIGRANT CHILDREN

Estefanía Rebellón is an activist and filmmaker dedicated to amplifying migrant stories. As the founder of Yes We Can World Foundation, she provides education for migrant children at the US-Mexico border. Her passion is deeply personal—at 10, she and her family sought asylum in the U.S., an experience that shaped her mission.

“I see myself reflected in every child at our schools,” Rebellón shares. “This is one of the many reasons Yes We Can Mobile Schools was born.”

Since 2019, her nonprofit has opened three schools in critical border cities, serving over 307 children. Through education, Rebellón turns displacement into opportunity, ensuring every child has a safe space to learn, dream, and build a brighter future.



ARE YOU THE NEXT GLOBAL CHANGEMAKER?

We are seeking exceptional young leaders aged 18 to 30 who are passionate about making a difference. If you are driven to lead, learn, and inspire, this is your opportunity to grow alongside like-minded changemakers from around the world.

We welcome individuals who:

- 🌐 Exhibit strong leadership potential and a willingness to learn from others to enhance their leadership skills.
- 🌐 Embrace diversity with an open mind, valuing different perspectives, backgrounds, and ambitions.
- 🌐 Demonstrate empathy and respect while holding a deep commitment to serving society.

If you are ready to expand your horizons, engage in meaningful conversations, and take your leadership to the next level, we invite you to be part of this transformative experience!



YOUR ALL-INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE

The fee of USD 1,450 + 7% VAT (tax) includes:

- 5-night Accommodation on a sharing basis
- Local Transportation during Official Activities
- Meals include five breakfasts, four lunches and five Coffee Breaks
- An Enriching Interactive Experience
- Inspiring Guest Lecturers
- Knowledge-based Plenary Discussions
- A Kindness Day Activities
- One Souvenir T-shirt
- An Electronic Certificate of Participation
- Networking Opportunities

Please note that the discounted early bird fee ends on April 30, 2025

VIDEO

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