



Hikma Fellowship for Public leaders

Reigniting the Flame

Throughout the 2011 uprising and ensuing transitional period in Yemen, youth played a critical role in driving forward efforts to reform the country's systems of governance to be more accountable to and inclusive of Yemenis from all walks of life. However, despite Yemen's rapidly growing youth population, young leaders have been marginalized since the end of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) and beginning of the ongoing conflict. The resulting social polarization has fragmented existing youth networks and closed off any remaining space for Yemen's diverse youth to share experiences and problem-solve across party lines.

To help empower Yemen's future public leaders and strengthen their leadership capacities, and based on the success of the first cohort of the program, DeepRoot Consulting is launching the second phase of the program "**Hikma Fellowship for Public Leaders**", Funded by the government of the Netherlands, which aims at strengthening the political capital of Yemeni youth leaders and their participation in decision-making processes. Applying DeepRoot's participatory and inclusive approach, the program will target a carefully selected group of first- and second-line emerging leaders from all political parties and independents to participate actively in the fellowship program.

The Hikma Fellowship

Yemen's long-term stability requires sensible leadership that has the knowledge and necessary skills to build the future, can embrace a culture of dialogue and is more amenable to compromise with their peers across the political spectrum. To contribute to this aspect, the Hikma Fellowship for Public Leaders brings together 15 first- and second-line emerging leaders from various political parties, movements, civil society, and influential independents.

These promising young men and women will undergo a carefully curated program of workshops, dialogue meetings, capacity-building modules, and participant-led activities that will sharpen their leadership skills and encourage collaboration spirits, cultivating a diverse community of young public leaders and contributing to building **a common vision for Yemen's future**. In addition to tackling core national-level issues, the Fellows will complete advanced training modules on Negotiations Adaptive Leadership, Public Policy Development, and leading with integrity, delivered by internationally renowned institutions.

In addition to the dialogue sessions and training modules, the fellows will be able to meet and discuss with a number of inspiring global leaders.

For example, the first cohort of the Hikma Fellowship hosted Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, former Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, Prince Al-Hassan Bin Talal and others. The Hikma Fellowship will also seek to promote constructive engagement between the fellows, and local and international stakeholders. Using innovative polling methods, thousands of Yemeni youth will be polled at intervals throughout the project in order to feed their perspectives into the discussions of the Fellows and ground them in the realities facing young people across the country. At the same time, the Fellows will engage high-level Yemeni, regional and international stakeholders through consultations and briefs, conveying the unique insights Yemeni youth have to offer and opening new lines of communication with key actors.



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DeepRoot Consulting is a leading social enterprise working on advancing inclusive, sustainable solutions to a range of political, economic, and developmental issues in Yemen. DeepRoot has extensive experience in providing platforms for dialogue on peacebuilding, producing in-depth reports and expanding stakeholder understanding of the local dynamics in different areas of the country. DeepRoot has implemented multiple track II initiatives in direct and indirect support of the Office of the UN Special Envoy to Yemen's efforts to negotiate a political settlement to the conflict.

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