



Global
PEACE
Chain

YOUTH
DIPLOMATIC
ACADEMY

LEADERSHIP & PEACEBUILDING CERTIFICATION *London*

EVENT REPORT

08TH - 12TH,

2025

SEPTEMBER

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

► globalpeacechain.org

EVENT Summary

The **Leadership and Peacebuilding Certification London 2025** brought together participants from over 50 nationalities for an immersive program held at **Imperial College London**. Designed to cultivate critical reflection and ethical leadership in a polarized world, the certification combined keynote addresses, expert-led workshops, simulations, and interactive group activities. Participants explored the psychological foundations of resilience, strategies for rebuilding trust in post-conflict societies, and the moral dimensions of inclusive and ethical leadership. Through experiential learning and dialogue, delegates developed the skills to navigate complexity with empathy and integrity, emerging as globally conscious leaders committed to advancing peace and social harmony.



SUBJECTS OF Discussion

1. Resilience and Self-Awareness; Building the Inner Core of a Peace Leader
2. Rebuilding Trust in Post-Conflict Societies
3. Alternative Dispute Resolution in War and Post-Conflict Settings
4. Leadership for a Peaceful Future
5. Inclusive and Ethical Leadership in the Age of Polarization
6. Communication and Pitch Masterclass

Message From The Organizing Committee

As the organizing committee, we reflect on the Leadership and Peacebuilding Certification London 2025 as a journey that reaffirmed the power of dialogue and collective purpose. Coordinating a program that united delegates from over 50 nationalities was both an immense responsibility and a profound privilege. Each session, conversation, and cultural exchange reminded us that peacebuilding is practiced through empathy and understanding. The passion and discipline demonstrated by the delegates transformed this certification into a living testament to the idea that leadership grounded in humanity can bridge even the widest divides. It is this spirit that inspires us to continue creating platforms where learning becomes legacy, and collaboration becomes change".



Theme of the **PROGRAM**

“Empowering Emerging Leaders to Rebuild Trust and Cultivate Peace in a Divided World.”

Objectives of *the PROGRAM*

- To equip young leaders with the emotional intelligence and ethical grounding essential for peace-oriented leadership.
- To deepen understanding of trust and reconciliation through real-world case studies and interactive learning.
- To inspire participants to translate dialogue into action by designing sustainable and context-driven peace initiatives.

Day 1

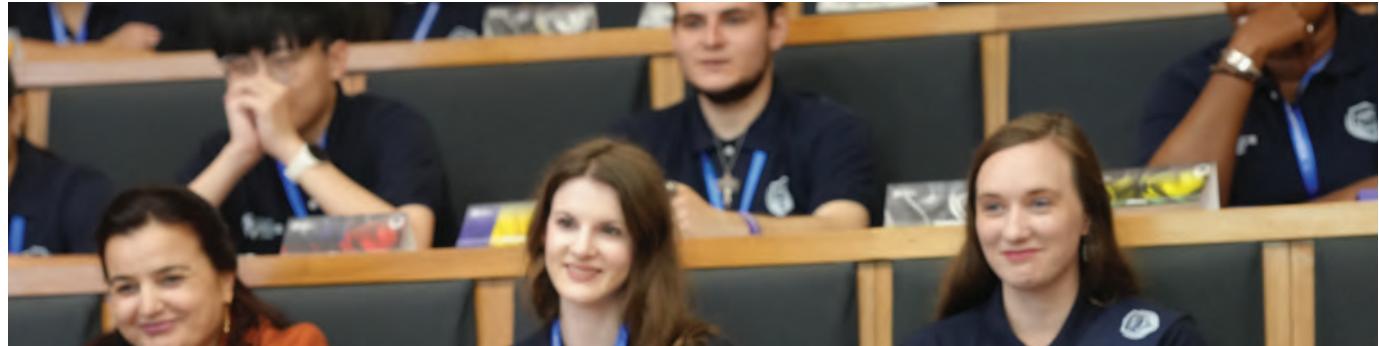
Arrival and Registration

The first day of the **Leadership and Peacebuilding Certification London 2025** marked the arrival of delegates from over **50 nationalities** at the **Imperial College London**, signaling the beginning of an engaging week of learning and exchange. Between 1:00 and 4:00 PM, participants checked in at the designated hostel, where the organizing team ensured a smooth registration process and comfortable accommodation arrangements. The afternoon allowed participants a period of rest and adjustment following their travels. Many used this time to explore the vicinity, interact informally with fellow participants, and prepare for the sessions ahead. The calm yet anticipatory atmosphere of the first day set a composed tone for the days to follow, marking a seamless beginning to the certification.



Day 2

The **SECOND DAY** of the **Leadership and Peacebuilding Certification London 2025** began with delegate registration and merchandise distribution at Imperial College London. The diversity of the cohort was immediately evident as participants received badges bearing their names and home countries, reflecting both individuality and a shared dedication to peacebuilding. As delegates settled in, the venue filled with conversations and an air of anticipation for the sessions ahead.



OPENING Ceremony

The program was formally inaugurated by **Ms. Alya Farooq**, Program Lead of the event, who extended a warm welcome to delegates, guests, and distinguished trainers including **Ms. Laura O'Neill Guerrieri**, and **Mr. Sebastian Parry**, Account Manager at One Young World. In her opening remarks, Ms. Farooq outlined the intellectual and experiential breadth of the certification. She emphasized that the program's curriculum traverses both the inner and outer dimensions of leadership; from identifying one's biases, triggers, and emotional patterns to understanding advanced conflict resolution and ethical leadership frameworks. Moreover, she noted that participants would leave equipped to recognize the roots of conflict within themselves and their communities and to apply tested methods for diagnosing and resolving them.



Ms. Farooq then played a short video, tracing the Global Peace Chain's evolution since its inception in 2018. The film highlighted its Global Peace Summits and leadership programs that have empowered uncountable young leaders across continents to act as impactful leaders with purpose, striving to change the world for the better.



Ms. Farooq then invited **Mr. Kamran Zafar**, **CEO of Global Peace Chain**, to deliver the **keynote address**. Mr. Zafar spoke passionately about the indispensable role of youth in shaping equitable and humane societies. He underscored the organization's mission to cultivate youth leadership that transcends rhetoric and translates into social impact. His address also reflected a deep moral urgency, as he called upon international institutions to act decisively in ongoing humanitarian crises, including those in Gaza and beyond, reminding the audience that silence in the face of injustice erodes the very foundation of peace.



“Resilience and Self-Awareness-Building The Inner Core of a Peace Leader.”

After the keynote address,

Ms. Laura O'Neill Guerrieri was invited to the stage to lead the first session of the day, titled “Resilience and Self-Awareness-Building the Inner Core of a Peace Leader.” Ms. Guerrieri, an **Associate Team Coach** at Leading Edge Performance, Career Coach at Maven Clinic, Associate Faculty Member at Columbia University School of Professional Studies, and Executive Coach and HR Consultant, brought a wealth of cross-sectoral experience to the program. Her session opened with interactive icebreakers and a cultural mapping activity that prompted delegates to locate themselves by heritage and belief, sparking dialogue on inclusion and shared identity. She then guided participants through the **SCARF Model**; exploring the five domains of **Status, Certainty, Autonomy, Relatedness, and Fairness**, helping delegates reflect on their personal triggers, value systems, and the psychological foundations of effective peace leadership.



Delegates reflected on these domains through an interactive Menti poll, ranking each according to personal significance. The discussion that followed revealed how value hierarchies are contextually shaped. For instance, **Ms. Huda Ismael** from the United Kingdom shared how her relationship with her mother influenced her moderate valuation of autonomy, illustrating how personal experience informs leadership values.

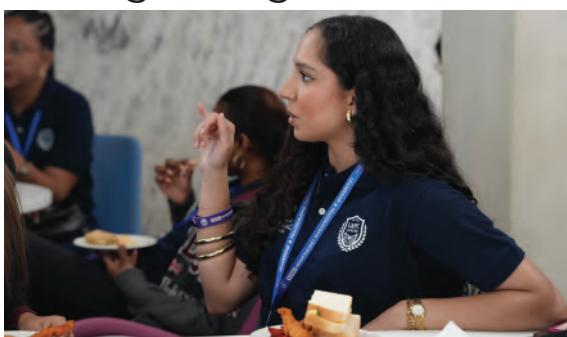
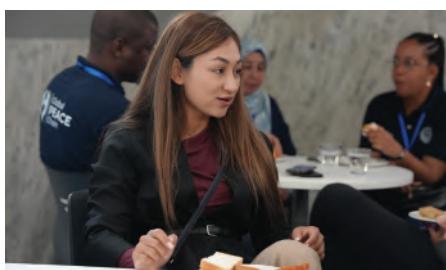


Participants then broke into **Groups** to examine how these internal frameworks affect peace leadership. Guiding questions such as, “*What was your reaction to your SCARF response?*” and “*What constitutes trust within your own context?*”, elicited introspection and nuanced dialogue. The session advanced beyond abstract theory, prompting delegates to interrogate how self-awareness and perceived fairness shape their ability to lead under pressure



LUNCH AND Networking

Lunch offered delegates a welcome break and an opportunity for informal dialogue with trainers and peers. Conversations spanned reflections on the morning's insights to shared experiences in community leadership.



The post-lunch session opened with an energizing activity led by **Mr. Amr Ramadan** from Egypt, in which participants stood up when they related to specific statements, an exercise that uncovered unexpected commonalities and deepened interpersonal connection.



The afternoon resumed with a session on cultivating a growth mindset and mastering communication dynamics under stress.

Ms. Guerrieri drew on neuroplasticity research to demonstrate that leadership capability is continuously refined through reflection and adaptability.

Direct/Explicit Communication and Indirect/Implicit Communication

She contrasted **Direct/Explicit Communication**, characterized by clarity and precision, with **Indirect/Implicit Communication**, which relies on suggestion and relational sensitivity. Using workplace examples, she illustrated how effective leaders modulate their tone to balance assertiveness and empathy: the difference between "*Please fix the errors on page three before sending*" and "*There are a few areas that might need a closer look; perhaps reviewing them again before sending could help*" encapsulated how communication style can influence trust and collaboration.



“You Won’t Win Every Point, Keep Moving Forward.”

Ms. Guerrieri played a short video featuring Roger Federer, titled *“You Won’t Win Every Point, Keep Moving Forward,”* reinforced the notion that resilience is less about perfection and more about persistence. Ms. Guerrieri emphasized that leadership’s greatest challenge often lies not in articulation but in listening, truly and without assumption. Delegates engaged in reflective exercises on active listening, considering how to demonstrate empathy while avoiding presumptions about others’ experiences



The **final session** of the day turned inward once again, focusing on emotional regulation and interpersonal influence in leadership. Through practical exercises, participants practiced box breathing for stress management, reframing and reappraisal techniques for emotional regulation, and short role-plays demonstrating emotionally intelligent responses to conflict.

“Speak and Listen for Potential”

Ms. Guerrieri introduced the *“Speak and Listen for Potential”* framework, emphasizing three principles of effective dialogue: speaking with clarity and generosity, while listening with genuine curiosity. The session culminated in a reflective exercise where delegates composed letters to their future selves as peace leaders, articulating personal intentions for growth and accountability.



The day came to a close with moments of recognition and shared reflection. **Ms. Ezgi** from **Turkey** received a **£1000 gift voucher** as **Best Delegate** of the Day, acknowledging her articulate participation and consistent engagement during the sessions. A team member from Nepal, **Ms. Sapna Bhandari**, then shared a deeply moving account of the challenges faced by her community, prompting a collective moment of silence that unified the room in empathy and resolve.



The program closed with an inspiring address by **Mr. Ahmad Nawaz**, survivor of the **2016 Army Public School Attack in Pakistan**, Diana Legacy Award Honoree, and graduate of the University of Oxford. **Mr. Nawaz** recounted his story of survival and renewal, urging delegates to rise above fear and adversity to create meaning and purpose through service. His words resonated deeply, embodying the day's core themes of resilience and emotional strength in leadership



GROUP Photos

The day concluded with group photographs in front of the **Royal Albert Hall**, capturing the unity and shared determination of the cohort as the London evening descended.



Day 3

The **third day** of the **Leadership and Peacebuilding Certification London** began with delegate registration and settling-in. The morning carried a calm yet expectant energy as participants reconnected with peers and prepared for another day of immersive learning. Conversations across the venue reflected a shared eagerness to deepen understanding of peacebuilding in post-conflict contexts.

The day's proceedings were formally opened by Ms. Shivanie Mangal, who served as the Host for the day. With warmth and composure, she welcomed the delegates, outlined the agenda, and smoothly transitioned the gathering into the morning's schedule.

She then invited **Mr. Usman Amjad**, Director of Global Peace Chain, to deliver the keynote address.

Mr. Usman Amjad delivered a stirring keynote centered on the idea of rising above fear. He reflected on how perfectionism and self-doubt often restrain individuals from realizing their potential reminding delegates that progress, not perfection, defines leadership.



Drawing on examples from innovation and human resilience, he referenced how great ideas throughout history, from the discovery of penicillin to the founding of social movements, emerged from courage amid uncertainty.



He emphasized that fear is not an obstacle but a signal of growth, and that leaders must learn to act in spite of it, shaping impact through conviction rather than comfort. His remarks set an introspective tone for the day ahead



Following the keynote, Professor **Dr. Catherine Renshaw**, Dean at **Western Sydney University**; **Associate Professor at the Australian Catholic University**; and Convenor of the Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, delivered her opening remarks as facilitator.

“Rebuilding Trust in Post-Conflict Societies”

She began by contextualizing the day's theme, **“Rebuilding Trust in Post-Conflict Societies”**, and invited delegates to engage in an opening reflection around the question, **“What does peacebuilding mean to you?”** This exchange created an early atmosphere of dialogue and intellectual curiosity.

Dr. Renshaw then commenced her session by asserting that trust remains the cornerstone of peace, yet it is often the first casualty in conflict. She examined case studies from Rwanda, Northern Ireland, Myanmar, and Argentina, illustrating how collective trauma, institutional collapse, and historical memory shape the anatomy of mistrust. Through these examples, she demonstrated that rebuilding trust requires addressing emotional, structural, and historical dimensions simultaneously.





“What are the building blocks of trust in your own context?”

Delegates then participated in a breakout activity exploring the question: ***“What are the building blocks of trust in your own context?”*** Each group presented one key takeaway, emphasizing principles such as transparency, youth inclusion, fairness, and accountability. The discussion revealed that while contexts differ, the restoration of trust universally depends on credible institutions and the moral integrity of leadership. The session concluded with an informative Q&A segment, where delegates reflected on the delicate balance between reconciliation and justice.



After a brief **coffee break**, an interval marked by animated networking and exchanges of perspective, the next session transitioned into a highly interactive workshop on **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in War and Post-Conflict Settings**. Dr. Renshaw guided delegates through an analysis of various post-conflict mechanisms, contrasting what has succeeded and failed in global practice. She explored examples ranging from international war tribunals to community-based truth-telling initiatives, introducing delegates to the frameworks of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRCs), lustration, and other customary mechanisms of justice and healing.



“The Peacebuilders’ Dilemma.”

The workshop's central feature was a simulation titled **“The Peacebuilders’ Dilemma.”** Delegates assumed roles within a fictional post-conflict nation tasked with establishing a TRC while navigating political constraints and moral tensions. In this high-stakes exercise, participants were challenged to balance justice with reconciliation and truth with political pragmatism. The simulation evoked passionate discussion and visible emotion, reflecting the real-world dilemmas peacebuilders face when principle collides with practicality. During the debrief, delegates shared insights on leadership under pressure, concluding that the essence of peacebuilding lies in empathy anchored by ethical clarity.



“If you were leading peacebuilding in your country, what would be your first action?”

Lunch was accompanied by reflective conversation, guided by the prompt: *“If you were leading peacebuilding in your country, what would be your first action?”* Delegates engaged in thoughtful dialogue, expressing priorities ranging from reforming education systems and promoting equitable governance to enhancing civic engagement at the grassroots level. These exchanges highlighted the diversity of vision within the cohort and the shared ambition to initiate tangible change in their respective societies. The **afternoon transitioned** into a **Capstone Workshop: Leadership for a Peaceful Future**, an intensive exploration of leadership traits essential for sustaining peace. Delegates examined qualities such as vision, empathy, courage, and accountability, discussing how these attributes shape the credibility and moral authority of leaders. The session further encouraged participants to decolonise leadership models in peacebuilding, urging recognition of indigenous and local traditions often overlooked in mainstream discourse. This discussion underscored that peacebuilding must reflect pluralistic perspectives rather than imported frameworks.



Each delegate then completed a Personal Leadership Map, identifying their guiding values, skills to develop, role models, and one concrete peacebuilding goal, whether local or global. In small groups, participants shared their commitments before displaying them on a Commitment Wall, transforming the room into a vivid gallery of shared purpose and aspiration



Before the formal closing, the atmosphere shifted to a celebratory and cultural tone with a Delegate Talent Segment, where participants showcased songs, poetry, and artistic expressions from their home countries. The performances reflected creative individuality and the unifying force of culture and art in advancing peace across borders.



The program concluded with collective reflections on the day's lessons. Delegates departed with a deeper comprehension of the mechanisms required to rebuild trust in fractured societies, the moral tension between justice and reconciliation, and the personal leadership commitments necessary to sustain peace in their own communities and beyond.



Day 4

The final day of the **Leadership and Peacebuilding Certification London** commenced with delegate registration, a brief recap of the previous sessions, and an overview of the day's schedule delivered by the hosts, **Mr. Amr Ramadan and Ms. Shivanie**. The tone of the morning was one of reflection and anticipation as participants prepared to culminate their three-day journey of learning and collaboration.



The opening keynote was delivered by the Trainer of the Day, **Mr. Adam Corbally**, an entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and finalist on BBC's **The Apprentice**. As the Owner of Werneth Properties, Director of Enterprisedays.co.uk, and an active mentor in business and leadership, **Mr. Corbally** brought a vibrant, experiential dimension to the proceedings. He began with an energizing icebreaker, encouraging delegates to identify their personal leadership goals and align them with values of confidence and courage.



*Self-confidence, communication, taking action,
and cultivating a winning mindset*

His keynote on **self-confidence, communication, taking action, and cultivating a winning mindset** emphasized that authentic leadership is defined by persistence, the willingness to act despite fear or uncertainty. Through references to real-world leaders and personal experiences, he illustrated how conviction and self-belief can transform individual success and community outcomes.



Inclusive and Ethical Leadership in the Age of Polarization

Following a **short coffee break**, delegates reconvened for the first workshop on **Inclusive and Ethical Leadership in the Age of Polarization**, also facilitated by Mr. Corbally. This session delved into the critical balance between inclusion and ethical decision-making in a world increasingly fragmented by ideological divides. Delegates examined contemporary leadership challenges, where polarization and misinformation often distort moral clarity, and discussed how to design strategies and campaigns that prioritize inclusion and empathy. The workshop underscored that peace leadership requires the deliberate amplification of marginalized voices and an unwavering commitment to moral integrity, even under societal or political pressure.



Communication and Pitch Masterclass

After a brief intermission for lunch, the afternoon transitioned into a **Communication and Pitch Masterclass**, which combined performance coaching with practical speaking exercises. Mr. Corbally highlighted essential techniques for impactful communication, including breathing control, purposeful body language, maintaining eye contact, and the effective use of storytelling to inspire audiences. He emphasized that persuasive communication is both an art and a discipline, rooted in preparation and sincerity. Delegates were tasked with recording five-minute video presentations of themselves, later reviewing them to refine delivery and confidence. This self-assessment exercise proved highly impactful, enabling participants to identify their growth areas and confront their fears of public expression.



Team Project and Pitch Competition

The momentum continued with a **Team Project and Pitch Competition**, where delegates, divided into groups, were challenged to conceptualize innovative projects promoting peace and sustainable development. The presentations demonstrated exceptional creativity and strategic thinking. **Ripple of Change** introduced an initiative centered on building wells under the theme *“Where water flows, peace grows,”* emphasizing the nexus between environmental care and community wellbeing. Limitless Edu proposed an accessible digital platform to teach practical life skills to populations with low literacy levels.



Globemates envisioned a youth-led network linking global citizens under the slogan ***“Travel global, impact local.”*** Wellbeing Body focused on mental and physical health as foundations of peace, while Brick and Morty addressed environmental sustainability through technology-driven alternatives to plastic.



After an engaging round of six presentations, **Wellbeing Body** was declared the **winning team** based on crowd engagement, thematic relevance, and delivery excellence. **Brick and Morty** and Limitless Edu secured second and third places, respectively. Moreover, in a generous act of appreciation, a **£1000 voucher** was presented to **Mr. Duong Binh Pham** from **Vietnam**, whose leadership and positive spirit had notably inspired peers throughout the program.



THE CLOSING Ceremony

marked the culmination of the **three-day certification**. Delegates were presented with the **Participation Certificates**, signifying their successful completion of the program. The moment was both formal and deeply reflective, as participants celebrated their shared journey of growth and global connection.



The ceremony was attended by **Mr. Haseeb bin Aziz, Deputy High Commissioner at the Pakistan High Commission, London**, who addressed the delegates with an impassioned message, encouraging them to remain connected, cultivate cross-border collaboration, and act as catalysts for positive change. He lauded their enthusiasm and diversity, emphasizing the power of young leaders to reshape global narratives through empathy and innovation.



The event concluded with closing remarks acknowledging the contributions of facilitators, participants, and the organizing team. Mr. Hammad Javed, GPC's photographer and media lead, meticulously captured moments of celebration, preserving the spirit of the event. Delegates departed as emerging peacebuilders, equipped with the confidence, ethical awareness, and practical tools to initiate meaningful impact within their communities and beyond.



Day 5

The final morning saw delegates checking out of their accommodations and bidding farewell to peers who had, over the course of the program, become collaborators and friends. As they departed for their respective destinations, the atmosphere was filled with gratitude and resolve.

CONCLUSION

The **Leadership and Peacebuilding Certification London 2025** concluded as a profound convergence of ideas, empathy, and action, empowering youth leaders to think critically and lead ethically in a fractured world. Each delegate left with enhanced leadership skills and a renewed commitment to shaping a more peaceful and equitable global future.



KEY Takeaways

- Recognizing one's psychological triggers and cultivating self-awareness are essential for developing resilience and leading with empathy in uncertain environments.
- Restoring trust demands confronting collective trauma and institutional failures while embedding transparency and inclusion at every level of governance.
- Balancing justice and reconciliation requires moral courage and contextual sensitivity, acknowledging that healing communities is as vital as legal justice

- Effective peace leadership arises from empathy and accountability, coupled with a recognition of indigenous and non-Western traditions of peacebuilding.
- Ethical leadership calls for embracing diversity, ensuring every voice is valued, and making principled choices even amid ideological divides.
- Confident and authentic communication transforms ideas into influence, leaders must connect through sincerity and emotional peacebuilding.
- Collaborative problem-solving and innovation are the true measures of leadership, proving that peacebuilding extends beyond rhetoric into tangible community impact.

KEY Achievements

- Successfully convened over 50 nationalities under one program, creating an intellectually diverse environment that encouraged cross-cultural dialogue and global understanding.
- Delivered expert-led workshops that strengthened participants' capacities in emotional intelligence, ethical decision-making, and post-conflict trust-building.
- Enabled delegates to translate theory into practice through immersive simulations and group projects addressing real-world peacebuilding and leadership challenges.
- Cultivated a strong network of emerging global leaders committed to advancing peace and inclusivity within their respective communities.
- Concluded with measurable personal and collective outcomes, delegates identified concrete leadership goals, presented actionable peace initiatives, and received global recognition for their commitment to ethical leadership.