



NEXUS

GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT

The Nexus London Youth Summit on Innovative Philanthropy and Social Entrepreneurship June 15th to 17th, 2012 Nexus London EVENT REPORT



Nexus Delegation at #10 Downing Street

What was it?

Who came?

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Convened by:



What was it?

From June 15-17, 2012 more than 100 young philanthropists, social entrepreneurs, and potential investors gathered in London at 50 Saint James Place in Mayfair Square. Participants gathered to network and exchange ideas on how to create new models of philanthropy, in Europe and around the world. It was the launch of Nexus London, the European regional network of the Nexus: Global Youth Summit. The event was convened by Search for Common Ground with support from many volunteers and partnering organizations.

The goals of the event were to:

- 1) Explore and advance the potential of next generation leadership across European nations and sectors;
- 2) Catalyze young global philanthropy and social investment in Europe; and
- 3) Bridge European communities of wealth and social entrepreneurship through dialogue, collaborative problem solving and education.

The first day opened with a small delegation visiting #10 Downing Street to discuss social innovation and the growth of the philanthropic sector. It was followed by a larger opening reception with globally focused keynote speakers. The second day was full of sessions and interactive programs, followed by a party with live entertainment. The final morning featured a brunch, a group evaluation, and discussion of next steps.

The London experience was well received. The process inspired many new partnerships, and created momentum for our Asian gathering this July, in Beijing, and our Global Summit this September, in New York. With each event we move closer to the launch of our *Global Campaign for a Culture of Philanthropy*, a proposed UN resolution calling for philanthropic reforms, greater global generosity, donor education programs, and more.

In short, the Nexus: London Youth Summit cultivated our European community and made them aware of global development issues. With austerity, recession and the future of the Euro at the front of everyone's mind, this community started something new and hopeful, a region-wide conversation about the role of young Europeans in the world, and the impact that their collaboration can have on making the world a better place.





Who came?

There were participants from more than 10 countries, mostly from Europe. Participants, speakers, and hosts included many well known leaders including Ghanem Nuseibeh of Jerusalem's Nuseibeh family, Hadeel Ibrahim of the CelTel family, HRH Prince Mario Max Zu Shaumberg Lippe of Austria, and representatives of many well known families and foundations like the Johannpeter Gerdau family of Brazil and the Edmund de Rothschild Foundations. There were also a number of young self-made philanthropists and social entrepreneurs.

One compelling participant was our closing speaker, Hadeel Ibrahim. Ms Ibrahim is the Founding Executive Director of The Mo Ibrahim Foundation, established by African telecom tycoon, Mo Ibrahim in 2006. After selling Celtel for \$3.5 Billion dollars, Mr. Ibrahim started the foundation to support good governance and leadership in Africa by awarding the Ibrahim Prize to African heads of state. Ms. Ibrahim spoke to us about European and African relations, institutional credibility, African philanthropy, development and "aid versus investment."

With charm, Ms. Ibrahim challenged the room. She used the term "reputation laundering" to describe the work of some family foundations. She said, "If there is any funny money in your endowments, please don't go and talk to someone about corruption... There are Royal family foundations that fund democracy NGO's but represent monarchies." Ms. Ibrahim stressed the importance of speaking with credibility and evaluating a charity's place on what she called "the legitimacy continuum." With respect to Africa she highlighted the importance of engaging with institutions like the African Union and elders from traditional communities who have been written off. Not surprisingly, she also challenged institutional arrogance. "If you have a bad relationship with the ministry of education, then they will never send good teachers to the school that you built."

Her words, in addition to those of the other dynamic speakers, challenged and inspired the audience to appreciate the power of young people to look at age-old problems with new ideas, to innovate them, to question the status quo, and to create new realities and possibilities which were never imaginable before.



What was the impact?

The UK is interesting because impact investing models and culture have only become part of British society in the last few years. With key speakers leading the way, like Sir Ronald Cohen of Big Society Capital and Trevor Pears from the Give More Campaign, participants stepped forward, one at a time, to express their commitment to action. While most people were still just beginning the first phase of transforming their wealth, from traditional capitalism to social or philanthro-capitalism, the good ideas spread and people rolled up their sleeves and got involved. By re-thinking traditional educational and philanthro-investment models, many were ready re-consider their personal philosophies and re-organize their lives as a result.



We evaluated the impact of the event in several ways, including testimonials (video and written), interviews, and media. Nearly everyone expressed an interest in staying involved and collaborating with the rest of the network. Many reported new partnerships that they are developing as a result of connections made.

What's next?

Many new ideas came out of the London summit. Our European community was excited and inspired to get organized and to make a difference in the world, together. Some Europeans stepped up to join the upcoming Asian Regional summit in Beijing next month on July 21 and 22.

In addition to Asia, many pledged to apply for the annual Global Summit that will convene in September. Finally, a small group of participants came forward to help organize Nexus Africa, which is likely to convene in 2013.

While these regional networks are still developing and autonomously managed by the network membership, the Nexus London team is currently focused on forming its year-round programming and European partnerships. In addition, the Nexus London team is working on the following initiatives and ideas:

- 1) Strategic partnerships with European impact investment firms, such as LGT Venture Philanthropy. There are several impact investing groups who are interested in collaborating with Nexus London. They want to help build the community throughout Europe by supporting small Nexus events, bringing in members, and offering content.

- 2) **Building a Movement:** The Nexus London team is working hard to build the European community and to ensure engagement in our Global Summit in September. The team is currently seeking participation from every EU member country, and is also starting to facilitate connections between European members and African members to ensure healthy dialogue about relationships between the two continents.
- 3) **Other Projects:** The Nexus London team is cultivating other ideas and projects, as well, including: managing a private social network, developing a mobile application for “pro-active networking”, designing a virtual magazine, organizing retreats, and writing a blog/diary that will report on the community, its members and what they are working on.



Comments from a few participants

Below are some testimonials from Nexus London participants and allies:

"There are days in your entrepreneurial and personal life you never forget. Having a weekend loaded full of experiences of that category is a new experience for me and thanks to Nexus for all the inspiration, energy and networking." - H.H. Dr. Prince Mario-Max zu Schaumburg-Lippe.

"It was a very organized event. The Nexus team was so relaxed. They made organizing look so fun and cool!" - Amy Campbell Golding of the Windle Trust

"I found it truly one of the most insightful and worthwhile events I have been to of this nature and was so engaged with the discussions, sharing my views with others and forming friendships." - Hanah Caan of Hamilton Bradshaw and the James Caan Foundation

"I was very impressed and eager to tell my colleagues about the summit. This is a very unique network and something we are interested in investing in, long term." – A key impact investment advisor

"I sincerely and truly THANK YOU for inviting me to such an inspiring, enjoyable weekend. I hope it is the first of many Nexus events for me." –A new member from New York

"My son enjoyed the sessions he attended." – Father of a participant and a top Asian industrial family

"Thank you for organizing such a great event. I'm happy to join the Nexus family and excited about future events." - Australian Venture Capital Pioneer





For more information contact us at info@nexusyouthsummit.com or call: +1 202 777 2208

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