The Sedona Forum
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Combatting Human Trafficking
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THE MISSION

Guided by values that have animated the career of Senator John McCain and the McCain family for generations, ASU’s McCain Institute is a non-partisan do-tank dedicated to advancing character-driven global leadership based on security, economic opportunity, freedom and human dignity – in the United States and around the world.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to present to you the McCain Institute’s annual Impact Report. The following pages outline our most significant accomplishments in 2017.

The year marked the Institute’s fifth anniversary. Since its launch in 2012, the Institute has achieved growth and impact well beyond our initial expectations. This is due to the Institute’s core values and clear mission, our talented and dedicated staff, and all those who have believed in us and supported us from the first day.

A few highlights:

• Our Next Generation Leaders program crossed a major threshold in 2017, bringing four cohorts of emerging leaders together under one roof to strengthen our global network; welcoming our fifth class of leaders; and introducing measures to multiply our success by empowering our leaders to train others.

• In 2017, we launched the Buffett-McCain Institute Initiative – a three-year, multi-disciplinary program to combat modern slavery in the agricultural sector. This Initiative has enjoyed a rapid start, and it is poised to expand significantly in coming years.

• Our Global Rule of Law and Governance program has also experienced compelling growth, already attracting considerable funding in grants in its first full year of operations.

The McCain Institute is proud to be part of Arizona State University, which under the leadership of Dr. Michael Crow, is one of the most inspiring and innovative higher education institutions in the United States, boasting a growing global profile. Our engagement with ASU students and faculty continues to expand, touching the full range of our programs and activities, and creating even more opportunities on the horizon.

As part of the Campaign ASU 2020, the Institute has embraced pronounced efforts to assure long-term financial sustainability. This has already produced notable contributions to multi-year operational funding, as well as investments in the Institute’s long-term “Impact Fund.” This allows us to plan our development and growth strategy for the next decade and beyond.

Finally, reflecting the McCain Institute’s action-oriented approach, I should note that in July, 2017, I was named by Secretary of State Tillerson as U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations. I continue to lead the Institute while volunteering my efforts to establish peace and restore Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. Although Ukraine continues to suffer, I am pleased that our efforts have raised awareness of the ongoing conflict, clarified U.S. policy toward Ukraine, strengthened U.S. cooperation with European Allies, and established a channel for direct U.S.-Russia communication about the conflict.

Building on all our accomplishments to date, the McCain Institute is embarking on an exciting new phase in its development. Thank you for your advice, friendship and support. We look forward to working together with you in 2018 and beyond.

With best wishes,

Ambassador Kurt Volker
Executive Director
The McCain Institute for International Leadership
Arizona State University
THE SEDONA FORUM

The Sedona Forum is one of the most prominent international conferences purposefully formatted to incite frank, off-the-record discussion on American global strategy and leadership. Top government officials, business leaders, human rights activists, humanitarian workers and U.S. senators from both sides of the aisle were among the featured speakers at the fifth annual Sedona Forum, held April 21-23, 2017. The highlight of the 2017 session was a keynote conversation between Senator John McCain and Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, USA, who is currently serving as National Security Advisor to President Donald Trump.

To foster candid debate and discussion, the Forum was conducted off-the-record. The sole exception was a session on the fight against human trafficking. That discussion focused on the international scope of trafficking and featured Nick Grono, CEO of the Freedom Fund; Kevin Hyland, United Kingdom Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner; Cindy McCain, Chair of the McCain Institute Human Trafficking Advisory Council; and was moderated by Ernie Allen, Principal, Allen Global Consulting LLC.


Panelists for the opening session of the Sedona Forum on young leaders driving change: moderator and Institute Trustee, Lady Lynn Forester de Rothschild, chief executive officer, E.L. Rothschild, and chairman and co-founder, Coalition for Inclusive Capitalism; Dr. Alaa Murabit, high-level commissioner and SDG global advocate, U.N., and founder, The Voice of Libyan Women and The Omnis Institute; and Hadeel Ibrahim, executive director – strategy and external relations, Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

Cindy McCain, chair of the McCain Institute’s Human Trafficking Advisory Council, discussed the global fight against human trafficking at the Sedona Forum. The panel featured Nick Grono, CEO, Freedom Fund; and Kevin Hyland, United Kingdom Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner; and was moderated by Ernie Allen, Principal, Allen Global Consulting LLC.
Award for Courage and Leadership

The McCain Institute’s 2017 Award for Courage and Leadership was presented posthumously to Kayla Mueller and accepted by her parents at an event in New York City. Mueller, a humanitarian worker from Prescott, Arizona, dedicated her life to serving those in need. She was captured and held by ISIS until her reported death in 2015.

The Award for Courage and Leadership is given each year to honor an individual or group who has unwaveringly stood for fundamental values and has inspired the world through acts of selfless courage.

Past recipients of the McCain Institute’s Award for Courage and Leadership: Malala Yousafzai, 2015 and Dikembe Mutombo, 2016.

Kayla would be deeply humbled and honored by this award. It’s difficult to imagine summoning the courage despite another day of torture and captivity; not knowing what that day could hold and what may be done to her or others. Yet be able to live with the belief that even in prison one can be free and be able to retain this freedom to be principled and compassionate.

– Marsha Mueller, Kayla’s mother


Mueller worked first as a volunteer and then ultimately as an employee for various advocacy and humanitarian organizations engaged in relief work in some of the areas of greatest suffering in the world. While working for an NGO in Turkey supporting Syrian refugees, Mueller accompanied a group of fellow humanitarians to a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Aleppo, Syria. As they left Aleppo in August 2013, they were ambushed and taken hostage, just days before Mueller’s 25th birthday. The sole American, Mueller remained in custody and was held hostage by ISIS until her reported death in 2015.

Despite the torture, violence, and unimaginable abuse, Mueller remained committed to living a life of courageous compassion. As her fellow hostages would later recount, Mueller stood up to executioner, “Jihadi John”, to defend her faith and principles with a steadiness and dignity that seemed unimaginable given the terror and torture they had all witnessed and endured.
Since its inception, the Next Generation Leaders (NGL) program has developed and empowered 52 emerging, character-driven leaders from 39 countries spanning five continents. The NGL program graduated 10 NGLs in August 2017, totaling an impressive 44 NGLs in the field implementing their Leadership Action Plans (LAP).

In September, we welcomed eight new leaders from eight different countries who will comprise our first group primarily focused on character-driven political leadership at all levels of government.

Proudly, the 2017 Cohort applications increased by 170% from the prior year and we reached 44 new countries. Our new NGL train-the-trainer component will greatly expand our global reach, with each NGL training at least 100 people per year, beginning in the fall of 2018.

The Next Generation Leaders program has partnered with 45 organizations around the United States, including Fortune 100 companies, government agencies and leading non-governmental organizations. Placements align with each NGL’s professional background and Leadership Action Plan, while designed to be a professional broadening experience developed to support each NGL’s leadership journey.

In February 2017, we convened our four first cohorts of Next Generation Leaders for the Global Leadership Symposium: Embracing Disruption. This marks the first time we have brought leaders together across program years, helping to strengthen our Next Generation Leader global network, and reinforcing each NGL’s commitment to implementation of his or her Leadership Action Plan. The Symposium drew attention to leadership challenges and solutions and engaged NGLs, guest speakers, program partners, as well as the McCain Institute team.
This year, we were proud to announce three winners of the McCain Institute 2017 NGL Catalyst Grant: Giorgi Akhmeteli of Georgia, Urmo Kübar of Estonia and Karambu Ringera of Kenya. The Catalyst Grant supports and encourages top achievement in the implementation of a Next Generation Leader’s Leadership Action Plan through an annual monetary award of up to $10,000.

The most important task of a leader is to help others to be the best versions of themselves. My year spent as part of the Next Generation Leaders program was instrumental in my journey towards supporting the people of Estonia in becoming more active, considerate and generous citizens for their communities, for our country and for the world. It is an extremely well-designed and implemented program that combines thought-provoking discussions, unique networking opportunities and hands-on experiences with the leading thinkers and practitioners.

— Urmo Kübar
Next Generation Leader, Estonia

Giorgi Akhmeteli, a member of the 2013 Cohort and an individual who uses a wheelchair due to a spinal trauma, is the Founder and Chairman of the Georgian NGO “Accessible Environment for Everyone,” an organization that advocates for the interests of persons with disabilities. Through his Leadership Action Plan, Akhmeteli works with the Georgian Parliament on healthcare, rehabilitation, and habilitation issues within the disabled Georgian community. Akhmeteli will use his Catalyst Grant to fund disability awareness seminars at five Georgian Universities.

Urmo Kübar, a member of the 2014 Cohort, is an experienced civil society leader in Estonia. He was recently named as Civil Society Advisor to the President of Estonia. Kübar is dedicated to promoting more civic activism and social action, building a supportive environment for civil society organizations, and strengthening their capacity to impact and inspire a more giving society. His Leadership Action Plan is to establish a venture philanthropy foundation in Estonia to support non-profit organizations that make a difference in people’s lives. Kübar will use his Catalyst Grant to develop a website, the first of its kind in Estonia, that will catalyze philanthropic engagement and turn Estonians into more active and impactful givers.

Karambu Ringera, a member of the 2015 Cohort, is the Founder and President of International Peace Initiatives, an NGO that aims to create models of sustainable development and peace in Kenya. By implementing her Leadership Action Plan, she is building an advocacy agency for citizens and developing a leadership training program to educate and train current and future leaders. Her plan has received national attention in Kenya and has directly impacted 1,000 individuals. Dr. Ringera will use her Catalyst Grant to support leadership workshops across Kenya.
The McCain Institute’s program for Combating Human Trafficking educates, raises awareness and implements action-based solutions to end modern slavery. Throughout 2017, the program enjoyed tremendous growth as we launched a multi-disciplinary labor trafficking program, deepened partnerships with local and national organizations and expanded outreach efforts on college campuses nationwide. In April 2017, in collaboration with the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, the McCain Institute launched the Buffett-McCain Institute Initiative to Combat Modern Slavery. The objective of this three-year Initiative is to establish a program that:

- Ends trafficker impunity by supporting a justice system able to effectively, fairly, and efficiently handle forced labor and labor exploitation cases.
- Secures justice for victims of forced labor and severe forms of labor exploitation.
- Discourages exploitative practices by bringing the Fair Food Program to Texas.
- Amplifies resources and increases coordination through multi-sectoral partnerships.

The Initiative launched as a pilot with resources focused in 74 counties in South and Northwest Texas. Since launching the Initiative, key achievements have been realized across all four key program areas. This includes building the capacity to recognize and support victims within state and local law enforcement through several interactive training workshops. We have also helped to identify nine potential victims of labor trafficking in the agricultural sector as a result of dedicated outreach to farmworker communities.

COMBATTING SEX TRAFFICKING

In 2017, we convened the Second Annual McCain Institute Human Trafficking Symposium, bringing together more than 350 people to discuss ways to combat human trafficking at local, state, national and international levels. Symposium speakers included: Senators Amy Klobuchar and Bob Corker; Emanuel Medeiros, CEO of the International Center for Sport Security in Europe and Latin America; and Bradley Myles, executive director and CEO of Polaris Project.

We also continued to amplify our efforts through innovative partnerships. With the McCain Institute’s support, the ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research helped to develop a comprehensive, web-based, human trafficking education curriculum aimed at preventing and identifying human trafficking among school-aged youth.

Finally, McCain Institute staff continues to provide technical support to the Arizona Governor’s Human Trafficking Council. The Council worked with the Arizona Broadcasters Association to air human trafficking public service announcements during the NCAA Final Four tournament in Phoenix, and trained all NCAA Final Four volunteers on how to identify and report incidents of human trafficking.
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

Human rights defenders around the world are in peril, and action is needed to support those individuals who are at the forefront in defending and promoting freedom. The McCain Institute’s programs reflect an unyielding commitment to upholding freedom, democracy and human rights as universal human values. Our work in 2017 to eliminate the scourge of human trafficking, to promote a peaceful, nonviolent electoral environment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to support the rule of law in Pakistan highlight a few of our ongoing efforts to strengthen individuals and institutions that protect and defend basic human rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUPS

The United States has long practiced a policy of promoting human rights and democracy as part of its national security agenda. In an effort to augment that agenda, The McCain Institute continued to convene the Human Rights Working Group in 2017. This is a unique, nonpartisan initiative that brings together renowned experts in the fields of human rights and national security. To date, this group has produced 19 country papers with specific recommendations. In 2017, action was recommended to support human rights in countries that dominate the current foreign policy agenda, such as North Korea, the Philippines, South Sudan and Burma. Additional reports were issued on countries such as Vietnam and South Africa, who also continue to struggle with issues of democracy and human rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PROGRAM

Building on a record of passionate advocacy for human rights, the Institute launched the Human Rights Defenders program in 2017, which provides transitional assistance to human rights activists who have been forced to flee their home countries or to work underground due to harassment, intimidation or violent threats. A world seemingly less concerned about upholding democracy, and defending human rights and the rule of law, puts the lives of Human Rights Defenders, as well as their friends and families, at grave risk. Through the Human Rights Defenders program, the McCain Institute provides funding, logistical assistance and referrals to human rights defenders in distress. Our goal is to support 10-12 Human Rights Defenders per year.

The program assisted a prominent activist for women’s rights and education, its first Human Rights Defender from Afghanistan. Having received countless death threats, and barely surviving a bombing attempt in mid-2017, she is now living abroad with her family. The McCain Institute’s support has provided her and her family the opportunity to remain abroad temporarily while the threat environment cools. We have also provided her with additional training, as well as a platform to continue her advocacy for more freedom and transparency in Afghanistan. She intends to return home when it is safe to do so.
GLOBAL RULE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

EDUCATING NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS

The Global Rule of Law and Governance Program welcomed students from ASU’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law for study in Washington. Students in this program have the opportunity to take courses in international human rights law, transitional justice, building judicial institutions, and – through the McCain Institute’s Policy Design Studio – foreign policy-making. Thanks to externships across Washington, students also gain valuable professional experience at U.S. government agencies, including the Departments of State and Justice, Congressional offices, NGOs and policy institutes. Alumni of our program have gone on to work in the fields of rule of law and international law in places as diverse as Poland, the United Kingdom, American Samoa, Brazil and Albania. In January 2018, we will welcome the third cohort of students. This academic component will be our largest to date.

BUILDING RULE OF LAW

The Global Rule of Law and Governance program was awarded a grant this year from the U.S. Department of State for a joint project with Mexico’s most prestigious private university, Tecnológico de Monterrey, to bring more transparency to that country’s criminal prosecution system. The Global Rule of Law and Governance program, through ASU’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law and in partnership with Tec de Monterrey’s Escuela de Gobierno y Transformación Pública, has undertaken this project to assist Mexico as it transitions from an inquisitorial legal system to the kind of adversarial legal system used in the United States and other common law countries. The potential impact of this project is significant as it builds on two cornerstones of democratic societies – functional courts, which can guarantee fair justice, and transparency in the judicial process. Additionally, the Global Rule of Law and Governance Program is implementing a grant from the U.S. Department of State to assist institutions in Pakistan in developing practical legal education capabilities that will bolster the effectiveness of the country’s justice system, including its prosecutorial services. This addresses a critical need in Pakistan as it seeks to counter the threats posed by terrorism, widespread criminality, and corruption.

EVENTS

ANNUAL NEW YORK DINNER

In November 2017, ASU Foundation hosted the annual New York dinner benefitting the McCain Institute, which featured a leadership conversation between Dr. Henry Kissinger and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley. The conversation was moderated by McCain Institute Trustee, former Senator Kelly Ayotte. In this timely, relevant and inspiring presentation, our speakers shared their views on some of the world’s most pressing global challenges, including North Korea and the United States’ relationship with China.

DEBATE AND DECISION SERIES

Focused on decisive action, McCain Institute debates offer a frank and informed format that strives to build deeper understanding, mutual respect, and political civility, as well as a call for decisive action. The debate series is non-partisan and seeks to look forward at future policy choices, not to look backward and cast blame for perceived failings.

This year’s debate topics included: U.S.-China Policy: How Do We Get Tough?, which was conducted in Phoenix, as well as, Russia: Time to Contain?, which was hosted in Washington.
Leadership Voices is the McCain Institute’s events series dedicated to engaging and empowering a diverse range of students and young professionals. The goal of the series is to motivate individuals on their pathways to success by introducing them to accomplished leaders, who share insights from their own leadership journeys, as well as their views on current events. Leadership Voices promotes character-driven leadership, one of the core values of the Institute, as well as the personal and professional formation of future leaders.

MOVIE PREMIERE OF I AM JANE DOE

The McCain Institute for International Leadership, 50 Eggs Films and Streetlight USA hosted the premiere of the groundbreaking documentary, “I Am Jane Doe,” in Washington, and Scottsdale, Arizona. This remarkable film shows the hardships and horrific reality of sex trafficking and Backpage.com. Survivors speak out and tell their stories of being sold online and share their journey to justice with the audience. The film is currently available on Netflix.

At both premieres, welcoming remarks and panel discussions featured Mary Mazzio, the film’s director, members of the McCain Institute’s Human Trafficking Advisory Council, and participants from the film. The Washington panel discussion included Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) and Senator Rob Portman (R-OH).

In February, the McCain Institute co-hosted the Washington premier of “I AM JANE DOE.” Following the screening, filmmaker and journalist Perri Peltz moderated a discussion on the fight to end human trafficking featuring Senator John McCain, Senator Rob Portman, Senator Heidi Heitkamp, Senator Claire McCaskill and Mary Mazzio, the film’s director.

In March 2017, law professors from Pakistan took part in training and professional development as a part of the Institute’s Next Generation Professionals program.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Next Generation Professionals

In the Next Generation Professionals short-term leadership training program, we hosted 16 law professors from Pakistan for a two-day, Washington-based training course focused on the ethics, values and leadership, as well as best practices for navigating a challenging legal and political environment. This session complemented a week of training on curriculum development, teaching methodology, legal clinics, and legal research and writing provided by ASU’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. After completing the program, the participants returned to Pakistan, where they are establishing new courses in local law schools. The leadership strategies learned at the Institute has contributed to the improvement of Pakistani legal education.

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POLICY DESIGN STUDIO

Since the fall of 2013, the McCain Institute has conducted 10 Policy Design Studio programs for 120 students through Arizona State University’s College of Liberal Arts and, as of 2016, the Sandra Day O’Connor School of Law.

This year, the Institute continued its Policy Design Studio, equipping undergraduate and law students with foreign policy design and leadership skills. The three separate classes focused on Germany, Turkey and the United Kingdom, where students constituted a U.S. embassy in their country of focus and played out actual roles of the embassy country team. Each class met with experts in international policy development from the State Department, foreign embassies, and other foreign policy leaders. Students developed their final presentations centered around advancing the relationship with the target countries and the United States utilizing recommended policy actions and changes.

In 2018, Policy Design Studio classes will also be open to students from Washington area universities. Exciting new academic initiatives are being planned now to add to the McCain Institute’s educational capacity.

DECISION THEATER

In 2017, the Decision Theater partnered with the U.S. Army’s Training and Doctrine Command in order to develop a visual model that will assist them in their mission to develop an operational doctrine and supervised training of the Army’s forces. The first project will benefit a Joint Task Force Commander in his effort to maximize stability in dense urban areas.

The Decision Theater at the McCain Institute is a powerful tool for helping subject-matter experts and policymakers simplify and visualize complex problems in order to produce more positive and productive solutions.

5-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Next Generation Leaders from 39 countries

The Next Generation Leaders program has trained and empowered 52 leaders from 39 countries through partnerships with 45 organizations.

Sedona Forums convened

Five Sedona Forums have convened thought-leaders, decision-makers, action-activists and diverse experts to discuss approaches and solutions to real-world problems ranging from cybersecurity to China, and from crises in the Middle East to human trafficking. Featured speakers have included Vice President Joe Biden, former Prime Minister Tony Blair, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Director of National Intelligence Daniel Coats, and National Security Advisor LT GEN H.R. McMaster.

Partnerships and 25 events around the country to end human trafficking

The Combatting Human Trafficking program has educated, raised awareness and implemented innovative, action-based solutions to end human trafficking utilizing over 30 partnerships and 25 events around the country. The Institute sponsors vigorous research to develop solutions to fight trafficking. To raise awareness of this insidious and destructive crime against human beings in college communities, the Institute has formed the Student Alliance Against Trafficking with chapters on 25 campuses in six states.

24 debates as part of the Debate and Decision Series

24 debates have provided the platform for serious, candid discussions answering provocative questions, including: “Drone wars: Are we going too far?”; “Should the United States be the world’s policeman?” and “Is ISIS winning?”

19 working groups convened by the Human Rights and Democracy program

The Human Rights and Democracy program has convened bipartisan working group meetings, providing analysis and recommendations regarding human rights, democracy and rule of law in 19 countries.

52 people trained as part of the North Kivu Democracy Project

Launched in 2014, the North Kivu Democracy Project has directly trained more than 500 people in candidate/campaign techniques, as well as 3,000 people through a “training of the trainers” program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

39 Next Generation Professionals from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Pakistan

The Institute has hosted 39 Next Generation Professionals from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Pakistan for training and capacity building through political and legal training.

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THANK YOU

The McCain Institute is passionate about doing not talking.

The Next Generation Leaders program has educated and trained emerging leaders from around the world. Our do-tank approach has taken us to Pakistan and Mexico, where the Global Rule of Law and Governance program has helped train prosecutors and strengthen justice system procedures. The Buffett-McCain Institute Initiative, dedicated to combatting labor trafficking, has raised awareness, trained officials, and developed long-term mechanisms to eradicate forced labor in U.S. agriculture. Our Human Rights Defenders fund has supported human rights activists who have had to flee their countries and transition to new lives elsewhere, while continuing to fight for human dignity.

None of this would be possible without the enthusiastic and generous support of the many compassionately involved foundations, corporations and individual donors who have chosen to support the McCain Institute.

We don’t always see our generous donors, but you are always in the picture.

To learn more and to support the McCain Institute, please contact Anna Voloshin, Senior Director of Development, at Anna.Voloshin@asu.edu