



Our Leadership Programs equip rising leaders around the world with Senator John McCain's character-driven leadership style to help advance human rights, democracy, and freedom.

THE MCCAIN GLOBAL LEADERS (MGL) PROGRAM

Structured as a 12-month fellowship and learning experience, each cohort includes a diverse group of leaders from around the world working "in the arena" to advance democracy, human rights, and freedom. The program is designed to advance each participant's personal and professional leadership journey and impact by providing training, resources, and access to highly relevant regional and global networks. It is supported by an active Global Advisory Council whose membership includes global leaders with a strong track record demonstrating character-driven leadership and expertise.

Leaders participate in three memorable in-person events as well as a virtual leadership development curriculum that includes expert-led practical skills training inspired by Senator McCain's legacy.

- The Leadership Experience: Washington, D.C. & Annapolis, Md.
- The 2025 Changemaker Tours: Estonia & Finland, Mexico & the United States, Kenya, Taiwan
- The Legacy Experience: Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang & Hanoi, Vietnam

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The McCain Institute recognizes the ever-changing and complex global landscape as it relates to great power competitions, the spread of authoritarianism, threats to democracy, abuse of human rights, and growing challenges to the health of our planet driven by climate change. The McCain Institute also recognizes that 2025 will bring unprecedented change and challenge to the global community. The 2025 MGL Cohort will focus on a global theme of "Advancing Democracy and Human Rights" while also focusing on technical, regional challenges:

Western Hemisphere: Protecting the Human Rights of Migrants
Europe and Eurasia: Countering the Spread of Authoritarianism
Africa and the Middle East: Building the Foundations for Conflict Resolution
Asia and Oceania: Managing the Great Power Competition in the Asia-Pacific



Each year, the McCain Institute selects a cohort of character-driven leaders as National Security and Counterterrorism (NSCT) Fellows—rising professionals from the Five Eyes partner nations who have demonstrated a strong commitment to public service and national security. The fellowship prepares these individuals for future leadership roles and builds a professional network rooted in collaboration, trust, and shared democratic values. Delivered in partnership with the National Security College of the Australian National University, the program includes three intensive, weeklong modules in the Five Eyes capitals: Washington, D.C., London, and Canberra.

Now in its fifth year, the NSCT Fellowship has welcomed 73 total fellows into its growing global network. The 2025 cohort brings together 16 outstanding leaders from across the alliance, including representatives from the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Army, Department of Defense, and—for the first time—the New York Police Department. Fellows also hail from Counter Terrorism Policing UK, various Australian Government national security agencies, and New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their combined expertise spans intelligence, military operations, law enforcement, diplomacy, and counterterrorism policy—making this one of the most dynamic and diverse cohorts to date.







TAKUDZWA NGADZIORE

2024 McCain Global Leader

Zimbabwe

As the youngest member of Parliament and vice chairperson of the Parliamentary Youth Caucus (PYC) in Zimbabwe, the Honorable Takudzwa Ngadziore is a pro-youth voice and policymaker. In Parliament, Takudzwa has stood firmly in opposition to Zimbabwe's authoritarian tendencies and human rights abuses. Throughout Africa and globally, he has shared his vision and ideals by standing up for democracy, representing the voiceless and empowering young people to take action on the issues that are important to them. In addition to being a McCain Global Leader, he has spoken at the McCain Institute's American Democracy Tour in Wisconsin and during the McCain Institute's panel at the 2025 SXSW Conference in Texas.



Learn more about the Leadership Programs.