



# ABOUT | USOOR

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Jusoor is a non-partisan NGO founded by members of the Syrian expatriate community in 2011. Through various programs and initiatives in the fields of education, career, and global community engagement, Jusoor aims to support Syria's development and help Syrian youth realize their potential. With over 80,000 members Jusoor strives to engage and connect the global Syrian expatriate community in the process.

## **JUSOOR HAS ACHIEVED SEVERAL NOTABLE MILESTONES SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT, INCLUDING:**

- 80,000 members, 53% of them inside Syria in Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Latakia, Hama, Tartous, Sweida, Idlib, Deir Ezzor
- 47 university scholarships in 2014
- 1,250 children enrolled in Jusoor's Refugee Education Program
- 100 Syrian teams engaged in Jusoor's Startup Competition
- 180 participants in Jusoor's career mentorship workshops

Please email us at [info@jusoor.syria.com](mailto:info@jusoor.syria.com) if you would like to get involved in any of these programs.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### **UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Jusoor runs several scholarship programs for Syrian university students. In 2014, Jusoor funded 47 scholarships totaling \$470,000 and enabled 110 total scholarships through our partnerships. Jusoor is working to establish scholarships with leading universities around the world, and to this end, we announced a new partnership with **Cambridge University's** Global Leaders Initiative in September, through which Jusoor and Clare Hall College at Cambridge University will jointly provide full funding for one graduate student per year across a wide range of subjects that will support Syria's future. To date, over **250 Syrians** have applied for this opportunity. We are absolutely thrilled to see so much young Syrian talent applying to one of the best universities in the world. Succeeding our partnership with Cambridge University, we have started a similar initiative with Oxford University through which Jusoor, together with Oxford, will provide a Syrian student with a full scholarship to a graduate program at the university.

Jusoor is also working to increase the number of university scholarships available in the Arab world given the lower cost of funding strong education in the region. Earlier this fall, Jusoor joined the pilot program of "**From Camps to Campus**" led by the Institute of International Education (IIE), which will provide university scholarships to refugees in the Za'atari camp in Jordan. Through the pilot, we will jointly fund 4-5 university students. In addition, Jusoor awarded scholarships to **9 Syrian students in Lebanon** this academic year, with majors ranging from banking to law to medicine. We received over 200 applications for these scholarships in less than two weeks.

Finally, Jusoor has been working with US and European universities to provide scholarships to Syrian students as a founding member of the **Institute of International Education (IIE) Syria Consortium**. Through this effort, 60 universities across the globe (primarily in the US) are providing scholarships with full or partial funding to Syrian students. Over 4,000 Syrians applied this past year to these scholarships to date and nearly 160 scholarships have been awarded during the two years of the program. Today, as a result of efforts like these, there are more than 500 Syrian students studying at American universities. Our goal is to increase the number of Syrian students studying at US universities to 1,000 each year over the next five years.

## REFUGEE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Jusoor runs three informal education centers for Syrian refugees in Lebanon: one in Beirut and two in Bekaa Valley. The schools now serve 1,250 children and employ a staff of 45 teachers and administrators, who in many cases are Syrian refugees themselves. At these centers we are teaching children basic Arabic literacy, as well as English, Math, Science, Art, Sports and Peace Education. Our goal is to prepare these children to successfully enroll in the Lebanese public school system, once places open up for them.

These centers have been made possible because of donations from so many Syrian families around the world. Today, over 60 Syrian families are sponsoring these children's education through our 'Generation Hope' program. In addition, we are deeply grateful to the two major donors who made these centers possible. **Chalhoub Group** is funding our Jeb Jenine Center in Bekaa and the **Asfari Foundation** is funding our tent school in the Jarahiya neighborhood of Bekaa Valley. Their contributions have been extraordinary.

These centers are full of joy and happiness and the educational outcomes have been very uplifting. They are true safe zones - where these children can return to safety and childhood. Two elements really set these centers apart in the impact on the children. First, the centers are full of volunteers. Over **200 Syrians, Arabs, Europeans and Americans** have traveled to Lebanon to spend time with the children. They bring so much love to these children; new ideas on how to teach them English or math, and endless adventures, games and songs. The focus on volunteers not only helps children, but also gives so many of us a direct way to give back to these children.

The second element that distinguishes our program is that we have hired Syrians from local communities as teachers and administrators. On the one hand, this is wonderful because the teachers know what these children have been through and can be extremely sympathetic to their needs. On the other hand, by employing these young men and women, we are helping to safeguard our future labor force. So many Syrians have graduated with strong degrees and are now disengaged with no opportunities in Lebanon. Recommencing their professions and work at Jusoor, they have returned to hope and to life; this is making a tremendous difference in the refugee camp communities when they return home each evening.

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

Since Jusoor was founded, we have paired Syrian expatriates, who volunteer as mentors in the US, Europe, and the Middle East with Syrian youth looking to apply to undergraduate or graduate programs. Mentors provide guidance to Syrian students on which degrees to pursue, which universities to apply for, and tips on the university application process. Nearly 100 Syrians from around the world have participated in this program since we launched it in 2011, helping hundreds of Syrians complete a successful university application process.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Jusoor offers career workshops aimed at enhancing the skills and competencies of young Syrians looking to find jobs in today's competitive market. Developing the young Syrian workforce has become increasingly important as several Syrians have had to relocate to new countries as a result of the ongoing conflict in Syria and to adjust to new labor markets. The workshops allow individuals to benefit from the expertise of Human Resources professionals knowledgeable in the recruitment process of different industries. The program introduces Syrian youth to Jusoor resources, provides routes to successful application and specialised courses in business topics. The program has seen great success in helping young Syrians find jobs outside of Syria where the job market is completely different from what Syrians are familiar with. Most importantly, these workshops leave participants with a renewed sense of hope and empowerment.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

Jusoor launched the entrepreneurship program in 2014. This program includes a monthly series of webinars led by successful Syrian entrepreneurs around the world, in which young aspiring Syrian entrepreneurs dial in and ask questions. In addition, this year we launched a Startup Competition for Syrian youth that includes cash prizes of up to \$30,000 for the winning team. Over 100 Syrian teams applied to be part of the competition.

# 2014 | USOOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## JUSOOR - IIT SYRIA SCHOLARSHIP

### Illinois Institute of Technology

Farah Abdul Samad

Zeina Abdul Samad

Muhammad Al-Eewi

Tareq Alhamwi

Mazen Alhourani

Bashar Alisber

Abdulrahman Arnaout

Munzer Awad

Nour Daoud

Omar Haj Ibrahim

Marcelle Hana

Mossa Hana

Mohammad Hatahet

Jamal Eddin Kharat

Tony Law

Raed Tawil

## JUSOOR LEBANON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### Lebanese University

Hiveen Abdullah

Mousa Talouzi

Ibarhim Zouhour

### Lebanese International University

Marwa Arsheed

Hala Baro

Nour Shaheen

### Bekaa Technical Institute

Ali Rajab

### Al-Imam Al-Ouzi University

Ola Sharbaji

### Arts, Sciences & Technology University

Ehab Wazouar

## JUSOOR WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)

Ilham Ksebi

### The New School in New York City

Nadia Christidi

## CHALHOUB - JUSOOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### University of Warwick (UK)

Luna Ghannam

### University College London (UK)

Tarek Sabbagh

### University of Glasgow (UK)

Rami Zaatari

## JUSOOR SCHOLARSHIPS TO IIE SYRIA CONSORTIUM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### Salve Regina University

Sinan Zeino

### Monmouth College

Mariela Shaker

### University of Evansville

Yaman Shiekh Deia

Anas Karkout

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PRACTICE COURSE WITH GULF MONTESSORI INSTITUTE

### 33 young Syrian women

## OTHER JUSOOR SCHOLARSHIPS

### Harvard School of Public Health

Lana Awad

### University of Alberta (Canada)

Abdullah Abudan

# JUSOOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Leen Al Zaibak:** Leen recently served as policy advisor to the Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services and has 5 years experience in government. She is a frequent conference speaker on the topic of philanthropy. Leen manages the Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis as well as the Ambassador program at Jusoor. She handles communications and partnerships with universities in North America as well as EducationUSA and IIE, the International Institute of Education. Leen holds a Master's in International Relations from the University of Manchester and received her Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from University of Toronto, Trinity College.

**Iyad Duwaji:** Iyad is currently a business entrepreneur and a private investor. He is the President and founder of Dallas based Enanna Equity Partners. He also continues to manage West Asia Partners, a private equity firm that focus in investing in UAE and Gulf Cooperation Countries ("GCC"). He also serves as a director of various companies and investment funds.



**Dania Ismail:** Dania founded her own entertainment based company, Third Eye Agency, in Dubai and is a co-founder of Jusoor as well as the Director of the Jusoor Entrepreneurship Program. Prior to establishing her own company, Dania held the position of Strategy and Business Development Manager at MBC Group for nine years, Dania also set up and managed the group's corporate VC investment fund. Dania is passionate about working with Syrian communities on projects that accelerate the growth and realize the potential of Syrian youth.

**JP Chilazi:** JP is a Private Equity Associate in the Boston office of Bain Capital. Prior to Bain Capital, JP was a Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company, first in New Jersey and subsequently in Dubai. JP received an A.B. in Economics from Harvard College and will be attending Harvard Business School in the Fall. JP handles Jusoor's financial activities.



**Maya Malas:** Maya received her Masters in Urban Development Planning from The Bartlett School of Architecture at UCL after completing her BSc in Architecture at Damascus University. She currently works as a Development Manager at MAF Properties and has nine years of experience in real-estate development. Maya is also engaged in several philanthropic and educational activities related to Syria, and is passionate about progressive transformation through effective civic engagement. She leads Jusoor's art initiatives in support of education.

**Aziza Osman:** Aziza started a social enterprise in health and well-being across Dubai and holds idea cultivation workshops for startups in the region. Prior to pursuing entrepreneurship, Aziza worked in Marketing Intelligence and Strategy for Philips Electronics Middle East. At Jusoor, she runs the Career Development and Mentorship programs, working with students and graduates to increase their skills and enhance their personal and professional profiles.





**Fadi Salem:** Fadi is the Director of the Governance and Innovation Program at the Dubai School of Government; and former Associate at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Lee Kuan Yew School. Over the past decade, he led regional programs focusing on digital governance, the Internet, youth empowerment and public policy; including the impact of digital media on social and political discourses in the Arab World. Fadi is passionate about the empowerment of the Syrian civil society and the role of technology. He graduated from the London School of Economics and Aleppo University; and currently pursuing a PhD in Public Policy at Oxford University.

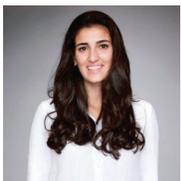
**Rania Succar:** Rania is head of North America Brand Solutions at Google and prior to that was an engagement manager with McKinsey & Company based out of the Chicago and Dubai office. Rania co-founded the Harvard Arab Alumni Association (HAAA) in 2001. Rania received an MBA from the Harvard Business School, an MPA in International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School and an AB in economics from Harvard College.



**Rami Zayat:** Rami is a corporate lawyer at DLA Piper Middle East LLP experienced in private equity and mergers and acquisitions transactions. Rami specializes in representing local, regional and international financial institutions on structuring Shari'a compliant investment and finance products. He is passionate about preserving Syrian cultural traditions while developing an educational system and economic forum that provides the structural basis for the development of youth.

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**Hani Jesri: *Jusoor Refugee Education Director.*** Hani directs the Jusoor Refugee Education Program in Lebanon and administers the educational centers and Jusoor's scholarship program in Lebanon, he joined Jusoor in 2012 and worked as Director of Member Engagement before moving to Lebanon to run the refugee program. He previously held the position Digital Account Manager at Mamac Ogilvy where he was responsible for overseeing various digital accounts for multinational brands in multiple industries. Prior to that, he worked with international telecommunications and Internet solutions companies, and also worked in Syria with different NGOs in the fields of education, children, and youth. Hani graduated with a bachelor degree in Economics from University of Aleppo and holds a Diploma in NGOs Leadership from Columbia University in New York.



**Rose Farah: *Jusoor Intern.*** Rose is a high school student from New York City. She is the vice president of her school's student body and a member of the speech and debate team, French literary magazine, and varsity lacrosse team. Rose is of Syrian and Palestinian descent and is passionate about helping Syrian refugee youth through her work with Jusoor.

# OUR DONORS

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The Said Foundation  
Chalhoub Group

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