

PHOTOS



**#TheSearchIsOn** to find 240 exceptional young people from across the Commonwealth to become Queen's Young Leaders

Jamal Edwards 2 hours ago



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Instagram

Gemma\_Cairney 2h

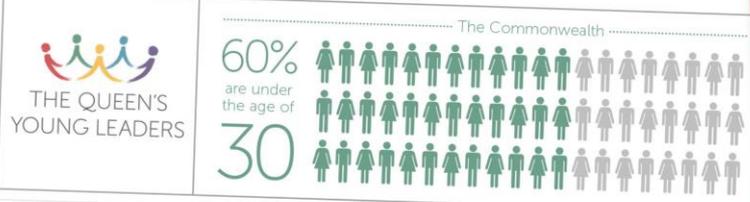


2108 Likes  
Gemma\_Cairney

Find out more about The Queen's Young Leaders at [www.queensyoungleaders.com](http://www.queensyoungleaders.com)

Jamal Edwards 1 hour ago

60% of the Commonwealth's population are under the age of 30 which is a massive opportunity. Young people have the energy, ideas and talent to make a huge difference to the country in which they live and the Commonwealth as a whole



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Search

**@Fahma · Jul 09**  
Grants from The Queen's Young Leaders Programme will support young people to learn new skills, enter employment or enterprise and have a say in decisions affecting their future #TheSearchIsOn

**@QueensLeaders · Jul 09**  
Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of exceptional young individuals who have proved themselves to be inspiring leaders in their communities #TheSearchIsOn

Photos and videos



## HRH The Duke of Cambridge and HRH Prince Henry of Wales launch search for The Queen's Young Leaders

### #TheSearchIsOn

**(Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July)** Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Henry of Wales are launching the search for exceptional young people from across the Commonwealth to receive an award from Her Majesty The Queen, for their achievements in transforming their own lives and the lives of others.

On behalf of The Queen, The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry will host a unique reception at Buckingham Palace where they will start the search from a state of the art social media hub, backed by Google and Twitter - the first ever to be installed at The Palace.

The search for 240 award winners aged 18 - 29 from all 53 countries of the Commonwealth who are to be celebrated, rewarded and supported for their achievements, is part of *The Queen's Young Leaders Programme*. A unique new initiative which recognises that young people have the ability to make a huge impact on their communities, the Programme aims to create new and exciting opportunities for young people, enabling them to reach their full potential, step up as leaders and go on to improve the lives of many others in the Commonwealth.

The life changing Programme has been established by The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust (the Trust) and run in partnership with Comic Relief and the Royal Commonwealth Society in honour of The Queen's 60-year contribution to the Commonwealth.

Speaking on behalf of the partnership, Sir John Major, Chairman of the Trust said: "We wish to identify and nurture the talent of the younger generation across the Commonwealth. We're inspired by the belief that one talented individual can be a positive force for good within their communities.

"This programme will celebrate the achievements of these extraordinary individuals and help develop their skills, thus creating a lasting legacy – benefiting the whole of the Commonwealth – to honour the long and successful reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II."

From Google Hangouts to Twitter Mirrors The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry will use social media to help spread the message that **#TheSearchIsOn**, calling on young people from across the Commonwealth to apply, or be nominated for the opportunity to become a Queen's Young Leader. In recognition of their achievements the winners will receive an award from The Queen and a year of mentoring and training so that they are able to further develop their skills and ideas and go on to inspire other young people to help shape the future of their societies.

The Princes will be joined by social media entrepreneur Jamal Edwards, who will be hosting the social media hub, well-known personalities and young people who are already leading the way in changing their lives and that of others.

Fahma Mohamed, a 17-year-old who is campaigning against the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK and across the world is attending the launch and supporting the Programme.

Fahma Mohamed said: "Young people are the parents, the leaders and the adults of the future. We have energy, creativity and new ideas and we are the ones who can ultimately change our society and make our world a better place to live. This is why I am proud to support The Queen's Young Leader's Programme as it is recognising how much young people do and can achieve and supporting us to do even more, even better."□

Over the next five years, at a time when the Commonwealth is home to the largest generation of young people ever in its history – over 1.3 billion of a total 2.2 billion citizens, *The Queen's Young Leaders Programme* will support thousands of young people to make their visions of a better society a reality. Comprising two parts, it will create a lasting legacy for the Queen through:

\*\* An Awards scheme, launched today, to recognise the achievements of 240 inspirational young people and provide support enabling them to take up leadership roles and inspire future leaders

\*\* Grants to support organisations in selected countries across the Commonwealth that work with young people to transform their lives

Young people from all across the Commonwealth can apply or be nominated to win an award and become a Queen's Young Leader from Wednesday 9 July 2014. Visit [www.queensyoungleaders.com](http://www.queensyoungleaders.com) for more information. #TheSearchIsOn.

**-Ends-**

## **Notes to editors**

For more information about the programme and launch event contact:

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\* Kimberly Williams, Comic Relief Press Officer on 0207 820 2500 / [k.williams@comicrelief.com](mailto:k.williams@comicrelief.com)

For a copy of a short film introducing the Partnership and the Awards scheme please click on this link: <http://youtu.be/adN20LSQm-o>

## **The Queen's Young Leaders Programme**

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, in partnership with Comic Relief and The Royal Commonwealth Society, has established The Queen's Young Leaders Programme in honour of Her Majesty The Queen's 60 years of service to the Commonwealth.

This unique, life-changing programme has two parts:

- An Awards scheme celebrates the achievements of exceptional young people who have proved themselves to be inspiring leaders in their communities and may have overcome challenges in their lives to do so.
- A Grants scheme supports organisations in selected countries across the Commonwealth that work with young people to help solve the problems affecting their lives and the communities in which they live with innovative, youth-focused solutions.

## **Award details**

Each year from 2014 to 2018, 60 inspirational young people will be selected to receive a Queen's Young Leaders Award and become 'Queen's Young Leaders' – one for every year that The Queen had served as Head of the Commonwealth at the time of her Diamond Jubilee.

At least one young person from every Commonwealth country will receive a Queen's Young Leaders Award.

*Criteria to win an award:*



- \*\* Nominees will have proven experience of working to improve their communities locally, regionally or at a national level and will show evidence of their achievements
- \*\* Nominees will be aged between 18 and 29 for the year of the Award and be citizens of a Commonwealth country
- \*\* Nominees will demonstrate evidence of their leadership qualities
- \*\* Priority will be given to individuals who have overcome challenges to achieve their goals
- \*\* All nominees will need to be supported by a suitable referee

## **The Partners**

### **The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust**

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### **Comic Relief**

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### **Royal Commonwealth Society**

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS), founded in 1868, is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. Working through a range of educational, civil society, business and governmental networks, the RCS addresses issues that matter to the Commonwealth citizens. For more information go to: [www.thercs.org](http://www.thercs.org)



## MEDIA SPOKESPEOPLE



### **Dr Astrid Bonfield CBE**

Dr Astrid Bonfield is Chief Executive of The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. Her previous roles have included Director of the Zimbabwean NGO Inter-Country Peoples' Aid, Programme Development Specialist at the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Director of Policy at Aga Khan Foundation and Chief Executive at The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. She has also served on the Board of the Association of Charitable Foundations, as Chair of the European Foundation Centre HIV/AIDS Funders Group and chaired the Management Group of the Corston Independent Funders' Coalition. Dr Bonfield was appointed to the Board of Big Lottery Fund in October 2012 and Chairs their International Committee. She is a Trustee of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness and in 2014 received a CBE in the 2014 New Year Honours list for her services to the charitable sector in the UK and Abroad.

### **Jamal Edwards, 23,**

Jamal is a writer, film-maker and founder of SBTv, a YouTube channel that has over 200 million hits and propelled the likes of Ed Sheeran into stardom. Only seven years ago, Jamal was making amateur videos whilst living on a council estate in Acton. As the success of his online channel grew, he's interviewed politicians and A-listers, fronted a Google Chrome advert and counts Richard Branson as one of his friends. Now he's backing The Queen's Young Leaders initiative along with some of the world's most inspirational young people.



### **Gemma Cairney, 29**

29 year old BBC Radio 1 DJ Gemma Cairney started as a stylist for bands such as Florence and the Machine and the Pigeon Detectives before moving into broadcasting. Gemma loves working with ambitious and inspirational young people, enjoys collaboration and being able to give good honest advice, and that's why she's excited to attend the launch of The Queen's Young Leaders.

### **Fahma Mohamed, 17**

As Trustee of Integrate Bristol, a charity that works towards equality and integration, 17 year old Fahma is campaigning hard to make sure that girls both in the UK and overseas are safeguarded from FGM practices.

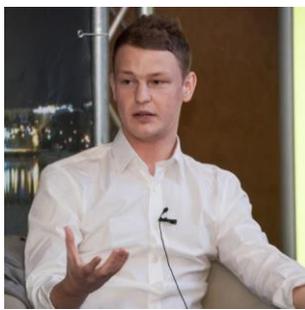


## INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

The guests below, who are supporting The Queen's Young Leaders Programme today, are shining examples of young people who have already done inspiring work to help change people's lives for the better.

### Rob and Paul Forkan, 26 and 22

Orphaned by the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami while in Sri Lanka with their family, brothers Paul, 26, and Rob, 22, have gone on to build Gandys Flip Flops, a business that helps orphans around the globe. Their dream is to open their first children's home in memory of their parents this year, which will also mark the 10th anniversary of the tsunami.



### Jamie Dunn, 22

Leaving school with 4 GCSEs and avoiding university and college was no barrier to business for Jamie – whose achievements include founder of Made by Young People, director of Spark Global Education and trustee of Arrive Alive which is working to raise £10m to provide a helipad on top of every children's hospital in the UK. He has already been short-listed as one of the Top 20 Young People in the World 2012, a title once held by former US President, John F Kennedy.

### Jermaine Hagan, 24

Having already won Shell Livewire's Young Entrepreneur of the Year award, Jermaine, 24, has his sights set on global domination with his product Revision App which helps those preparing for exams. It has already garnered over 1,000,000 users making it one of the most downloaded educational applications in the UK.



### Eliza Riberio, 20

Inspirational founder of 'Lives Not Knives' and an award winning campaigner Eliza Rebeiro, 20, has spent her teenage years trying to protect the youth of Croydon and has now reached over 100 secondary schools and 30,000 children with her project.

### Rajeeb Dey, 28

Rajeeb Dey, 28 has already been named as one of the Evening Standard's 1000 Most Influential People in London and O2 X Young Entrepreneur of the Year. He is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Enternships.com, a portal that connects students and graduates to work placements, and develops talent programmes for businesses like Telefonica, Santander and Havas





**Libby Powell, 30**

Libby Powell, 30, who was last year listed in [journalist.co.uk](http://journalist.co.uk)'s top 50 female innovators in digital journalism, is the CEO and founder of Radar, a communication rights organisation that creates new channels and opportunities for people on the margins of societies worldwide to share news and perspectives.

**Blessing Maregere, 21**

Blessing is on a mission to inspire, educate and motivate young people to become successful and is leading by example having launched his own cleaning company at the age of 16. In 2010, he launched Bright Futures Enterprise which has provided enterprise and employability programmes to 20,000 young people across the country.



**Darwin Bernardo, 26**

After losing a friend in a stabbing at their school gates eight years ago, Darwin, now 26, established Nutmeg, a project that puts at-risk and disengaged young people in touch with organisations who can offer positive and constructive activities.

**Arthur Kay, 23**

After discovering the oil content in coffee and the sheer wastage from cafes, The Mayor's Low Carbon Prize winner Arthur left his architecture training behind to embark on a new mission. His company Bio-Bean now turns waste coffee grounds into biomass pellets and biodiesel. Doing so, it aims to reduce landfill waste, greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.



**Beth Rimmington, 23**

Bethan's project HOPE, teaches entrepreneurial skills to survivors of human trafficking in Sheffield. She developed the programme to give survivors who want to start their own businesses their first step. She also launched HOPE Cosmetics, which offers three months paid employment to survivors well as setting up a Shea butter collective in Nigeria to supply the cosmetic business.



**George Mpanga, 23**

Nationally acclaimed, George is passionate about issues affecting young people in large cities. Once worried he would go down the wrong path, his parents were proud to see him work hard and end up at Cambridge University. He now works with 15 year olds on poetry workshops.

**Michael Sani, 31**

Michael is the founder of Bite The Ballot – a social enterprise working in schools, youth clubs, colleges and pupil referral units, using games and discussions to highlight the importance of voting. To date, they've registered over 51,000 voters.



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**WELL KNOWN PERSONALITIES ATTENDING AND SUPPORTING TODAY'S EVENT:**

Claudia Winkleman  
Emma Freud  
The Baroness Benjamin of Beckenham  
Helen Skelton  
Professor Ian Goldin  
Jennifer Saunders  
Joss Stone  
Laura Whitmore  
Matt Richardson

## GOOGLE HANGOUT PARTICIPANTS



### **Sihle, 27- South Africa**

Sihle, 27, is a talented rapper and artist, he runs a creative programme at a shelter for children living on the streets of Durban. At Amos Trust, a project supporting children living on the streets, his programme allows those children to express themselves, which in turn inspires Sihle in his work.

### **Gloria Benny, 27, India**

As a founding member and managing director of social enterprise Make A Difference [MAD] – which uses a network of 900 youth volunteers to run mentoring programmes, career placement programmes as well as education and innovation projects across India – Gloria is dedicated to providing quality education to orphans and other underprivileged children. Her vision is of a world where all children have equal opportunities; a dream that Gloria and her team are trying to make a reality.



### **Jordan, 20 - Jamaica**

In 2012, along with other young people, Jordan set up his first feeding project, Feeding of the 5000, which provided 250 vulnerable people in Kingston's inner-city communities with a box lunch and drink. The youngster, who is now studying a business and marketing degree, has received the Prime Ministers Youth Award.

### **Lockie Cooke, 26 - Australia**

Lockie is Founder and CEO of the Indigenous Communities Education and Awareness Foundation – a youth-led, not-for-profit organization that aims to encourage young Australians to take an active role in promoting reconciliation by increasing awareness of, and respect for, indigenous cultures. He's represented Australia internationally at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and the Commonwealth Youth Forum, where he was a planning team member.



## FAQs

### 1. What's going on today?

#### Bow Room

- Today's event will launch in this room. There will be short speeches from Sir John Major, His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge, His Royal Highness Prince Harry and Fahma Mohamed – as well as a short film explaining the Programme.

#### 1855 Room

- This room will, for today only, play host to a state of the art social media hub. Jamal Edwards and Gemma Cairney will host both Princes in various interactive sections of the room. The brothers will be photographed in front of a Twitter Mirror and take part in Buckingham Palace's first Google Hangout.

#### 1884 Room

- Two young photographers from Namibia and the UK have curated an exhibition of inspirational leaders from the past, present and future who have either helped shape the last 60 years of the Commonwealth or are helping to shape its future.

### 2. How many young people will receive an Award?

In recognition of the 60 years that The Queen has served as Head of the Commonwealth at the time of her Diamond Jubilee, 60 inspirational young people will be selected each year, from 2014 to 2018 to receive a Queen's Young Leaders Award. In total 240 young people will be recognised and celebrated who will then be supported to ensure that they go on to become leaders in their own communities around the Commonwealth for years to come.

### 3. What is the process/timing for nominating candidates for Awards?

Nominations/applications for The Queen's Young Leaders Awards this year (2014) will be open from 9 July and they will close on 10 October. Head to [www.queensyoungleaders.com](http://www.queensyoungleaders.com) for more information on how to nominate/apply.

### 4. Who will be able to apply for Grants?

Grants will be available to organisations in selected countries across the Commonwealth that are working with young people to transform their lives (Bangladesh; Jamaica; Sierra Leone; Solomon Islands; UK; and Zambia). Projects will be supported that are led by, or focused on, young people. They will provide opportunities for young people to learn new skills, enter employment or enterprise, or have a say in decisions affecting their future. Each project will place young people at the heart of their communities, working with them to help solve the issues that affect their lives.

**5. What is the process/timing for applying for Grants?**

Applications for The Queen's Young Leaders Programme this year (2014) will be opening in mid-September with the first Grants being made in July 2015. Head to [www.queensyoungleaders.com](http://www.queensyoungleaders.com) for more information on how to nominate/apply.

**6. What is The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust?**

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**9. What are the Commonwealth countries?**

For more information on the Commonwealth's member countries, visit: [www.thecommonwealth.org/member-countries](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/member-countries)

**10. Where can one find information about this programme?**

All information regarding this programme can be found at: [www.queensyoungleaders.com](http://www.queensyoungleaders.com)

## Contact information

Comic Relief Media Team

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[www.queensyoungleaders.com](http://www.queensyoungleaders.com)



<http://instagram.com/queensyoungleaders>



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