

Click the link below for video footage from the launch:

<http://youtu.be/qG3NGVbJTNk>

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

#TheSearchIsOn

Live from the first ever social media hub installed at Buckingham Palace, their Royal Highnesses The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Henry of Wales today launched the search for exceptional young people from across the Commonwealth to receive an award from Her Majesty The Queen. They will be recognised 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 hosted a unique reception at Buckingham Palace where they took part in their first Google Hangout and posted a tweeted a picture of themselves via a Twitter Mirror to help spread the message that #TheSearchIsOn.

The Duke of Cambridge said: "The Queen's Young Leaders Programme is intended to find young leaders who have determination, and to equip them with the tools to succeed.

"The Commonwealth is uniquely placed to do this work, as it reaches 53 countries and embraces a range of leadership styles. The search is on for The Queen's Young Leaders."

Prince Harry talked at the event about how the world today is more connected than ever, and as part of our everyday lives it has fundamentally changed the way we communicate. He said: "The young leaders of today have the greatest opportunity of any in our history to reach out across the Commonwealth and affect change on a global scale.

"For many people the community in which they live is their world - we must start there in supporting those who will change our community, our Commonwealth and our world."

The Princes were joined by social media entrepreneur Jamal Edwards, who hosted the social media hub along with young people who are already leading the way in changing their lives and that of others.

At 15 years old Jamal started the UK's leading online youth broadcasting company SBTv from a council estate in West London through which he helps up and coming artists to get their first break in the industry and now mentors young people aspiring to build their own successful businesses.

Jamal Edwards said; "This is a great award, with an amazing package of support from mentors to training opportunities. I would have loved to have had support from something like this when I was first starting out but it's not too late to help the next

generation of young people. Tweet #TheSearchIsOn now and help us find awesome young people who will help change the world."

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."

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 for more information. #TheSearchIsOn.

-Ends-

Notes to editors

For more information about the programme and launch event contact:

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Alternatively go to the Programme's website: www.queensyoungleaders.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>

An additional short film from the event will be available and sent out shortly.

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. 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.
- 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

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust is a charitable foundation, established in 2012, to mark and celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 60-year contribution to the Commonwealth. The Trust has received donations from governments, corporate partners, trusts, foundations, community groups and individuals from across the Commonwealth, and its programmes work in alliance towards eliminating avoidable blindness and to empower a new generation of young leaders. With a five-year timeframe in which to deliver successful programmes, the Trust's aim is to leave a lasting legacy, owned by the whole Commonwealth, to honour Her Majesty The Queen. For more information go to: www.jubileetribute.org

Comic Relief

Established in 1985, Comic Relief is a major UK fundraising and grant making charity which uses the power of entertainment to create long-lasting change. Its vision is a just world, free from poverty. It strives to make this vision a reality by supporting poor, disadvantages and vulnerable people in the UK and across some of the world's poorest communities to change their own lives for the better. Discover more at: www.comicrelief.com

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