

JUSOOR'S GLOBAL CONFERENCE TRANSPIRES WITH A MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR SYRIA

Global conference, fundraising dinner and art auction in London raises GBP 400,000 for Jusoor's education programs

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London

Jusoor, the non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting Syria's development through education, employment and economic programmes for Syrian youth brought together more than 300 participants on October 19th to take part in its second annual global conference and fundraising dinner in London.

According to UNICEF, almost two million Syrian children between 6-15 years old have dropped out of school due to displacement and violence, furthermore the Syrian crisis has also left almost 4,000 schools – or around one in five – damaged, destroyed or sheltering internally displaced families.

The conference opened on a positive note with an inspirational keynote address from the Chairman of the Said Foundation, Wafic Rida Said. More than 15 speakers including prominent businessmen, renowned global experts, distinguished scholars and students came together in a largely interactive environment that was hopeful, positive and empowering. Future projects were conceptualized during the conference targeting development and education programmes, and in partnership with Said Foundation and other participating organizations, Jusoor plans on developing some of these concepts including a university in exile for Syrian students which will host both Syrian students and Syrian faculty, in addition to an entrepreneurship programme that leverages the strength and expertise of the global Syrian business community, and a civil society platform that serves to support engagement from the wider Syrian population.

The conference was followed by Jusoor's annual fundraising dinner, which took place at the prestigious Royal Automobile Club bringing together over 150 guests from the Middle East, Europe and North America. In partnership with the acclaimed Ayyam Gallery, the dinner featured an art auction bringing works by leading Syrian artists and artists from other nationalities, in support of Jusoor's development efforts. The Gallery's co-founder, Khaled Samawi, served as the evening's auctioneer and lead the auction with his vibrant presence raising a total of more than GBP 355,000 Syrian born artist Elias Izoli's painting was sold at the highest bid of GBP 50,000.

The evening was generously sponsored by The Said Foundation, Raseef22, The Anna Lindh Foundation, Al Madad Foundation, and Ayyam Gallery.

“We managed through hard work and with the support of our esteemed partners to raise close to 400 thousand pounds for Jusoor's education programmes,” said one of Jusoor's co-founder's, Dania Ismail “The art auction proved instrumental, we raised money through

direct scholarship donations and from the sales of the Jusoor Refugee Center calendars, which were designed by Syrian children at our center in Lebanon” adding “The event was an enormous success, it was especially heartwarming to see the conscientious efforts of volunteers and students during the event-we could not have done it without them”

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About Jusoor

Jusoor (www.jusoor-sy.org) was founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental organisation who's mission is to bring together and engage the global Syrian expatriate community in efforts that will help Syria and its people realise their full potential. The organization currently has over 20,000 individuals in the network from over 40 countries all committed to bettering Syria's future. Programmes have focused on education, and include a refugee education programme in Lebanon, a global university scholarship programme, and an education and career mentorship programme. Jusoor is a non-political organisation and its programmes are all non-discriminatory.

Jusoor believes and works towards the goal that youth in Syria should have access to profoundly better opportunities in the years to come.