**Cultivate skills. Connect with community. Create change.**

|  |
| --- |
| **2017–2018 Young Leaders Institute Application** |

**Deadline: June 16, 2017**

US undergraduate students and other young adults 18-22 years of age\* interested in creating change among South Asian Americans on their campuses or in their communities should review information about SAALT ([www.saalt.org](http://www.saalt.org)), the Institute (see below and FAQ), and submit their completed application packet to [sonia@saalt.org](mailto:sonia@saalt.org) by **June 16, 2017**.

*\*Note: Priority consideration is given to young adults 18-22 years of age in the US. SAALT welcomes applications from young leaders who may not have access to undergraduate studies, as well as those who are enrolled in undergraduate programs. Applications of young adults who are older and/or in graduate school will be accepted and considered.*

**2017–2018 Young Leaders Institute**

****

The 2017-2018 Young Leaders Institute theme is “Combating Islamophobia.” Islamophobia or the systemic hostility and discrimination enacted toward those who are or are perceived to be Muslim is a complicated and fraught issue in the South Asian American community. The origins of Islamophobia within our communities has roots in colonialism and internalized racism woven with American institutionalized racism beginning with slavery and now foreign policy. This long and complicated evolution has led to anti-Muslim violence at an all-time high in the United States. Last year, the FBI reported a 67% increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes and SAALT’s recently released report “Power, Pain, Potential” documented 207 incidents of violence and xenophobic political rhetoric aimed at our communities during the 2016 presidential election cycle, of which 95% were animated by anti-Muslim sentiment. SAALT also documented a troubling uptick in anti-Muslim acts of violence, harassment, and intimidation on college campuses across the nation.

Anti-Muslim or Islamophobic policies have always been a part of United States history, increasing in visibility after the attacks of September 11th and soaring again now. These include but are not limited to the Patriot Act, National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), the Department of Justice Guidance on the use of race by law enforcement, Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program, immigration laws and enforcement like the current Muslim ban being appealed in court, local law enforcement surveillance, profiling, and stop and frisk policies.

Combating Islamophobia requires work within and outside our communities to ensure that we address our own biases and internalized oppression while also fighting systems and policies that diminish, criminalize, and discriminate against Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim. As we continue to head into uncertain and even dangerous times ahead, it is more important than ever that the South Asian American community effectively combats Islamophobia in all its forms. The 2017-2018 YLI cohort will work to understand the perspectives of individuals most impacted by Islamophobia, the systemic nature of Islamophobia and how it manifests in policies at all levels including college campuses, and develop ways to challenge and disrupt Islamophobia in our families and communities.

The Institute theme folds in a critical civic engagement component. Civic engagement is defined for the current purposes by an interest and willingness by individuals, residents, and constituents to engage with decision-makers, stakeholders, and peers (appointed and elected, campus-based and outside) as well as decision-making processes to make their voices, opinions, and priorities heard. Civic engagement is not limited to or predicated upon activities or efforts that involve elections or the voting process, or US citizens (who are generally, apart from some exceptions, the only individuals who can vote in the US). At its essence, civic engagement is defined as individuals who choose to organize themselves and others toward collective action to weigh in, engage, and voice their opinions on how to address pressing issues that need to be improved, replicated, or addressed in their community.

We encourage you to submit creative proposals that meet the goals of the Institute and are also reflective of your community’s needs.

Components of a successful project proposal include:

* **Identifying campus or community groups that work with Muslim communities.** The [National Coalition of South Asian Organizations](http://saalt.org/the-coalition/meet-the-ncso/) is an excellent resource to support your identification process. Many groups that are part of the NCSO are found along the coasts, which have traditionally been immigrant destinations. If you are in a relatively new immigrant destination such as the South or Midwest, we encourage you to seek out South Asian serving campus or community organizations.  Groups might include on-campus resource centers for Muslim students, student organizations, community organizations working on behalf of Muslim communities, or community coalitions combating anti-Muslim policies.
* **Developing a strategy for a civic engagement project in collaboration with that group.** Project examples include examining and recommending changes to course curriculum; organizing a townhall, forum, or workshop series on a particular issue or proposal; and/or coordinating an advocacy day with students to combat anti-Muslim legislation in the community or state/local legislature. Campus or community organization(s) do not need to agree to the project at the application stage of YLI.

Please review the FAQ for more information on civic engagement and general project examples. Also note there is room to revise and reframe your project after the training.

Instructions

It is recommended that e-applications be submitted, if possible. All responses can be entered by keyboard directly into this Word document. *All completed applications should be submitted as one PDF document to* [*sonia@saalt.org*](mailto:sonia@saalt.org) *with the subject line “YLI 2017*–*2018 application” by* ***June 16, 2017****.* Final candidates will be announced by the last week of June 2017 on our website. Due to the volume of applications, only final candidates will be contacted directly.

Please contact [sonia@saalt.org](mailto:sonia@saalt.org) or 301.270.1855 with questions about the Young Leaders Institute. *Questions regarding the application should be received* *by* *June 13, 2017 5PM Eastern Time*.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **General Information** | | | |
| *Please complete ALL fields by typing directly into the grey fields.* | | | |
|  |  | | |
| Preferred First Name | Last Name | | |
|  | | | |
| Street address (where you receive mail now) | | | |
|  |  | |  |
| City | State | | Zip Code |
|  |  | | |
| Email | Phone | | |
|  |  | | |
| Gender/Gender Identity | Dietary preferences/restrictions | | |
| *The following additional information is requested only for the purpose of expediting travel and other arrangements for final candidates. Please complete all fields.* | | | |
|  |  | | |
| First Name (as reflected in official travel identification documents) | Last Name (as reflected in official travel identification documents) | | |
|  |  | | |
| Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY) | Sex (as reflected in official travel identification documents) | | |
|  | | | |
| Street address (if different than above) | | | |
|  |  | |  |
| City | State | | Zip Code |
|  | | | |
|  | |  | |
| Preferred airport | | Preferred train station | |
|  | | | |
| **University Information (if applicable)** | | | |
|  | | | |
|  | | | |
| University | | | |
|  |  | | |
| City | State | | |
|  |  | | |
| What class year will you be in Fall 2017? | Expected graduation semester and year | | |
|  | | | |
| What is your major or study area of interest? | | | |
|  | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Three words that describe me are: | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| ***Please limit the following responses to 500 words or less.*** | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Personal Statement: Describe why this issue area (combating Islamophobia) is important to you. This may include (but isn’t limited to) a personal experience, identity, family or community need, or campus need. | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. The Movement: Why does combating Islamophobia in the US matter to the South Asian American community? | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Personal Experience: How does injustice toward Muslims manifest in your life—perhaps among your family, friends, peers, or other close networks—and what decisions do you make around it? | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Project Proposal: Each YLI participant commits to developing and implementing a project around combating Islamophobia among South Asian Americans or the population at large on their campus or in their community through civic engagement. Please describe the specific issue you intend to address and include goals and specific strategies for your project and how it will address the issue. What kind of change do you hope to see as a result of your project? Please provide as much information as possible around your selected issue and your proposed project. | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Leadership Experience: Please include 2–4 programs, activities, groups, and/or jobs in which you have participated which demonstrate your leadership experience. For each item, please describe the group/organization/program; describe your title/position and your roles and responsibilities; the duration of your participation; and 1–2 things that you learned. | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Leadership Style and Approaches to Work: The Institute requires you to work independently, but also to work as part of a group, and to access support regularly from fellow YLI students and SAALT staff. Please describe your experience with the following leadership styles and approaches to work:  * Independently-directed work and lessons learned * Team work and lessons learned * A time when you sought help with a project or a challenge in your campus or community and how it improved your project | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 8. What do you hope to learn from the Institute? Think about how the Institute could help your understanding of key issues and social change strategies in order to enact change through your project. | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| 1. I can participate in ALL commitments required for graduation, including the training in Washington, DC from **July 19th – 21st, 2017** | | | | |  | Yes |  | No |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| I heard about the Institute through: (*Indicate all that apply)* | | | | | | | | |
|  | University group |  | SAALT listserv | | | | | |
|  | Former YLI participant |  | SAALT event | | | | | |
|  | SAALT website |  | Other: |  | | | | |
|  | Friend/family |  |  | (Please list) | | | | |
|  |  |  |  | | | | | |