

Transatlantic Leadership Seminar on Faith, Leadership, and Power

Rome, Istanbul, and London

November 11th to 18th, 2018

Thematic Agenda

Please note that the agenda is still subject to change.

The 2018 Transatlantic Leadership Seminar on Faith, Leadership, and Power will take a cohort of 25 leaders from Europe and the United States to Rome, Istanbul, and London to explore how faith informs leadership across sectors in today's world. Participants will have a unique opportunity to engage with more than 40 leaders in intimate, frank, and dynamic conversations and learn how spirituality shapes their values, priorities, and norms. Solutions to pressing contemporary issues will also be explored, while group reflection and debriefs will help participants identify key leadership takeaways.

Rome, Italy and Vatican City

(November 11th-13th)

The Seminar will begin with a welcome reception, which will allow participants to get to know each other, share their reasons for having joined the Seminar, and reflect on the ways spirituality or values have influenced their own leadership trajectory. The program will then shift its focus to examine the way that faith has been shaping society since antiquity; the contributions that Judaism and Christianity have made to Western conceptions of morality, community, and solidarity; and the influence that these two faiths continue to have on public perceptions, discourse, and policy. The cohort will also explore the ongoing efforts of the Holy See to foster reconciliation between nations and faiths and help set a moral compass for the high levels of migration that are so profoundly impacting the public discourse on both sides of the Atlantic.

Istanbul, Turkey

(November 13th-15th)

The Seminar will then move on to Istanbul, the city that used to be the capital of one of the most powerful caliphates in the Islamic world - the Ottoman Empire - and today, houses the most majestic monuments of that period and the preceding Orthodox Christian Byzantium. Participants will here explore the way Islam informs politics in Turkey today; the full diversity of Islamic thought, movements, and

denominations; and the intricate relationship of this global faith with modernity. The program will pay special attention to the way Islam guides community life and charity, as well as the way Orthodox Christianity perceives contemporary trends and coexists with Islam and other Christian denominations. The last day will include a visit to historical sites including the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia, of which the later was a wonder of Byzantine architecture that served both as the patriarchal basilica and the imperial mosque before becoming a blue print for all Orthodox temples worldwide, a museum, and a UNESCO world heritage site.

London, the United Kingdom

(November 16th-17th)

The Seminar will end in one of the most diverse capitals in Europe, which only recently elected mayor Sadiq Khan, who as the first Muslim to hold this office took his oath on his own Koran and left it in the custody of the state for the use of future mayors. The program will first look at the policies of inclusion that have enabled a society as diverse as the United Kingdom's to be stable, vibrant, and prosperous for so long. The focus will then shift to the implications of Britain's recent decision to leave the European Union; the backlash against minorities that this decision has generated; the challenge minorities face in achieving accurate representation; and the ways in which exchanges among secular and faith based voices are generating shifts on key social issues. The program will pay special attention to the unique position of the Church of England and its active role in the affairs of the state as a partner of government and other faiths.

Optional Add-On

(November 18th)

Participants will have the opportunity to extend their stay for another day and enjoy a relaxing group excursion at the end of the program to Canterbury.

Registration for the Transatlantic Leadership Seminar on Leadership, Faith, and Power – A Journey to the Source is offered on a first come, first serve basis and is now open to all alumni of German Marshall Fund's (GMF) leadership programs.

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GMF's Transatlantic Leadership Seminar enables leaders from business, government, and civil society to stay at the forefront of trends in the 21st century. Each rendition lasts seven to nine days, is expert led, and takes place in a region experiencing rapid change. Participants engage with more than 40 leaders in open, frank, and dynamic conversations, and benefit from firsthand experience and group reflection. The Seminars rely on GMF's extensive network of partners and 35-plus years of strategic convening to offer programs of the highest quality.

Previous seminars examined the future of global engagement in California and Mexico in 2017; strategies for recovery from austerity in Greece and Italy in 2015; developments in global north-south cooperation in France and Morocco in 2014; and post-conflict reconciliation and reform in Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia in 2013.

Transatlantic Leadership Seminars are exclusive to members of GMF's transatlantic leadership network, which includes alumni of the following programs: the **Marshall Memorial Fellowship**, **Manfred Wörner Seminar**, **Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network**, Asmus Policy Entrepreneurs Fellowship, APSA Congressional Fellowship, and New Länder Fellowship.