

THE SAÏD  
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FORUM  
ON SJLP

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# The Inaugural Saïd Rhodes Forum on Syria, Jordan, Lebanon & Palestine (SJLP)

22 - 23 February 2020

"A state of dysfunction?"

Weaving a vision from a complex present

We are hosting the inaugural Saïd Rhodes Forum on Syria, Jordan, Lebanon & Palestine (SJLP) to celebrate the historic partnership between the Saïd Foundation and the Rhodes Trust. This conference comes at a time of a dialectic struggle in the region and of attempts to navigate a state of dysfunction. Join us in a unique conference that will weave in a vision from a complex present.

The brightest of minds will engage in a unique dialogue nourished by a mosaic of despair and hope. Through an intergenerational and interdisciplinary approach, the conference will be discussing three indispensable themes at this time in the region: Economic development, health and Culture and education.





Eight years have passed since Syrians experienced the start of one of the largest political and humanitarian crises in recent history. Seventy-one years have elapsed since the Palestinian Nakba (the Catastrophe), which still echoes loudly today. While Lebanon remains shackled in sectarianism and a soaring burden of debt, Jordan is struggling to redefine its position of power in the region. At the same time, the young generation in these four countries, are entering the world race in innovation and entrepreneurship, and attempting to embrace notions of political and economic reform, gender equality, freedom of speech, sexual identity, and democracy.

In the presence of complex (geo)political realities, what does the future hold for the region (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine)? How can a focus on the themes of economic development, health, education and culture help us in reshaping the present and envisioning a different, more vibrant future?

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**Format:** The two-day convening will be held at Rhodes House on 22 and 23 February, 2020. It will include a series of keynote and TED-style talks, panel discussions, workshops, and mentoring sessions.

**Participation:** Rhodes Forums attendance is by invitation only, with a maximum of 150 delegates to ensure optimum engagement and interaction. The conference will be open to current and recently graduated Rhodes and Saïd Scholars as well as Rhodes Alumni, members of other international Scholarship programs and entrepreneurs who come from or work on the region.

**Guests and Speakers:** Our conference will aim to attract prominent and high profile speakers and experts from the region.

*To find out more, contact:*