

DOHA YOUTH FORUM ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROVIDES KEY PLATFORM FOR STUDENT VOICES TO BE HEARD

Co-Organised By Qatar Foundation, The Forum Aims To Engage, Equip And Enable Young People To Develop Solutions To Crime

Doha, Qatar, 7 April, 2015: On the opening day of the inaugural Doha Youth Forum on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, participating students expressed their delight at being given the opportunity to voice their opinions and beliefs. Following the conclusion of the Forum, a number of the Forum's student delegates will present their findings to the United Nations 13th Conference on Crime and Criminal Justice, which is being held in Doha next week.

The three-day Youth Forum has been jointly organised by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), the Organising Committee of the United Nations 13th Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). With 120 student delegates of different nationalities and backgrounds taking part, the Doha Youth Forum presents a key opportunity for them to work together and develop creative solutions to global issues on crime.

"This Forum is unique as it's the first time I have seen young Qataris participating in events usually designed for VIPs," said Mohammed Saad Al-Amine, a 17-year-old Qatari student. "I think this might encourage some of us to enter the diplomatic service, as participating at this age will help us prepare to be future pioneers. Our school chose a number of students to participate in this Forum, and I was one of the students who wished to take part."

Another Qatari student, 18-year-old Saqr Abdullah Al-Muraikhi, said: "The youth is the future of this country, so it is important that they can express their opinions and suggest solutions to problems. A lot of crime now happens in cyberspace, and young people are well-positioned to combat it as they are very knowledgeable about the Internet. Crime can also be prevented by the Qatari youth educating others and being advocates of what is right and wrong."

“I’m honoured to be at this Forum, alongside other initiatives, as it will help to develop the Qatari youth and realise the Qatar National Vision 2030,” he concluded.

Jassem Al-Kuwari, a 17-year-old Qatari student, said: “It is important to let young people take part in the fight against crime, as it’s the best way to educate them on the potential outcomes. Also, it will play an important role in combating crime before it happens, and encourage people to avoid it.

“I’m thankful for this opportunity to serve my country, especially from such a young age. I hope to have more opportunities to represent my country in future international events, so that I can raise the profile of Qatar.”

Jawaher Al-Khater, a Qatari student studying in an Indonesian high school, came to Qatar especially to participate in the Doha Youth Forum. “I study in Indonesia, and I came here to participate in the Youth Forum. It represents a unique opportunity for young people to take part in a UN conference and invoke change on an international level,” Jawaher explained. “This is a very intelligent initiative, as it is this generation which will develop Qatar in the future. This Forum is also about opening up to the world, where we will be able to promote change.

She added: “Personally, I would like to see a more effective approach to combating corruption around the world. I’m still in high school, and I would like to study International Relations in the future. I’m interested in politics and I have attended conferences discussing democracy and the changes that are sweeping across the Arab Spring countries. I was struck by the number of participants here today, their backgrounds and nationalities, and I’m sure that we represent the world’s youth at this Forum.”

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