

## **Reflections on Ethical Leadership and Global Citizenship**

Over the past two years as a Laidlaw Scholar I have learnt so much about what leadership means to me. Exploring ethical leadership in our workshops, as well as in our day-to-day work during our research projects and Leadership in Action projects has been so valuable. I find the topic of ethical leadership quite interesting. To be candid, it was a topic that I found difficult to grasp in the beginning. The idea that your values may differ from societies values and rules, and that this may make something unethical was difficult to grasp. However, our work together helped me grasp how being an ethical means acting in a way in line with your values, but also for the greater good of your local and global communities. Working with an NGO for my LIA that works on Global Climate issues allowed me to learn a lot about ethical leadership and Global Citizenship - it shows that to solve a global issue, you must listen to the most vulnerable people.

I have learnt so much from each of the other scholars in my cohort. Whether they study History, Engineering, Psychology or Maths, they each bring such passion to each of their subjects. I find it so exciting that they each choose to use their skills and talents for good in all of their projects. I think that it can be hard, as a young person, to see exactly where your skills and values fit in to leadership. My cohort mates have shown me that there is not one way to be a good leader. You can be quiet, supportive, outgoing, confident, empathetic - there are so many ways to be a good leader. It has been such a joy to watch everyone bring their skills all over the world to help their chosen communities. It has changed my perception of what it means to be a leader and is one of the things I am most grateful for throughout this programme.

In terms of Global Citizenship, my Leadership-In-Action Project taught me a lot about the importance of understanding your place within the world around you. Taking part in a project to benefit developing states that are suffering the most due to climate change helped me further understand why it is important to elect ethical leaders into government across the world. The issue of small island states bringing cases against large polluters would not have to be addressed if global leaders acted in response to the needs of those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, instead of acting in self interest. Attending the negotiations at the Marine Environmental Protection Committee at the International Maritime Organisation helped me to see this in action. I found it evocative to see developing states call out for support in protecting their marine environment, their livelihoods and their vulnerable populations. It solidified the importance of being an ethical leader and a global citizen, that one must think about the consequences of their actions on other people, especially the most vulnerable.