Amala Catalysts for Change

Join our community of supporters
There are over 1.8 billion young people in the world. Every one of them has a unique talent and potential to positively shape the world and to participate in their communities to create a better world. However, the majority of young people will never have the chance to reach their full potential as they do not have access to the conditions they need to thrive, including high quality educational opportunities.

This is particularly true for young people who are refugees who often face insurmountable barriers to accessing education due to government policies that prevent them from going to school, poverty which forces them to work and unstable living conditions. As a result, one in three refugees are able to complete their secondary education and only 5% are able to access higher education.

The Co-founders of Amala, Polly Akhurst and Mia Eskelund were exposed to the realities that refugee youth face while working on a scholarship program that admitted refugees to international schools around the world to complete their upper secondary education. They found that for every scholarship available, hundreds of promising applicants were turned away and had few or no alternative pathways to access the education that they wanted.

The idea for Amala was born: to provide an education guided by the needs and desires of youth living in displacement that will improve their lives and communities today and create opportunities to thrive. Amala’s mission is to use the power of education to transform the lives of refugees, their communities and the world. The name ‘Amala’ is inspired by the Arabic word for hope, which our education embodies.
Amala develops and implements high quality education programmes at upper secondary education level. The Amala High School Diploma, the first international high school qualification designed with and for refugees, provides a unique alternative for them to finish their basic education and access further opportunities. Our non-formal Changemaker Courses enable learners to develop key life skills and support participation in societies.

In the last three years, Amala’s Changemaker Courses have reached 700 young people in countries where the number of refugees is high, such as Malaysia, Trinidad, Uganda and Greece. The Amala High School Diploma was launched in June 2020 with the first students graduating in September 2021 - a major milestone for them and Amala.

The young people on our programmes describe it having a profound impact on their lives.

For many, it has been a life-changing opportunity to return to school: One young man who is currently enrolled on the High School Diploma in Jordan said “I applied to this programme because I did not get an opportunity to finish my high school. When I left Syria, I was studying for my final exams - but when I came to Jordan, I was not able to join a local school because I had to work. This is my opportunity - I have been waiting for this!”

Responding to the global refugee education crisis, our long-term ambition is to make Amala’s programmes available to any young person that wants and needs to access them. Between 2021 and 2024, our goal is to reach 5,000 learners and develop organisational capacity so that we are able to scale exponentially towards 2030.
To meet these goals, and ultimately enable even more refugee youth to access high quality education, Amala has identified three strategic areas that will need to be focused on if we are to be successful: 1) Make Amala’s educational programmes replicable 2) Become a widely recognised education provider 3) Build organisational capacity to accelerate growth.

One of the greatest challenges over the next three years will be to raise the funds to both grow and reach new communities while expanding Amala’s capacity and preparing to scale. We need to raise £2 million in the period 2022 - 2024, and we are looking for support from individuals, organisations and companies to help us reach these goals and provide high quality education to those that are the least likely to access it.
"I would like to see the Amala program continue because this is the spark that will ignite the world"

- Current Amala High School Diploma student
Join the Amala Catalyst Donor Cycle

Our Amala Catalyst Donor Circle is a newly launched community of individuals, groups and organisations that are committed to supporting young refugees’ access to transformational learning - creating long term change for individuals, communities and the world.

Each Catalyst Supporter pledges to make a donation of a minimum of £1,000 per year for three years. This vital funding supports Amala’s work across the whole organisation, and is invested both in expansion of programmes and developing organisational capacity and long-term sustainability.

In 2021 and 2022, three-year pledges between £1,000 and £5,000 are matched 100% in the first year by an existing Amala supporter, increasing the impact of each donation significantly.

As a Catalyst Supporter, you will receive regular updates from Amala, case studies and stories showing the impact of your support. You will also be invited to events to learn more about Amala’s work and the students on our programmes.

To pledge your support and become an Amala Catalyst Supporter, please fill in the form on the next page and return it via email to mia@amalaeducation.org

Tax-efficient giving
Amala currently facilitates tax efficient giving in the UK and the Netherlands. To learn more about how this works, please get in touch with us on mia@amalaeducation.org. If you are a resident outside of these two countries and would like to inquire about tax efficient giving, please also get in touch via email.
Donation Pledge Form

Name(s):

Organisation (if applicable):

Preferred email address:

Postal address:

Pledge amount (please indicate amount and currency):

☐ I pledge to donate annually for at least three years in order to have my donation matched 100% in the first year.

I wish to make the donation via:

☐ Bank transfer
☐ Cheque
☐ Credit card on Amala’s website
☐ Other - please specify:

Date:

Signature:

Thank you for your pledge and commitment to providing young refugees with transformational education opportunities through Amala!
Amala's mission is to use the **power of education** to transform the lives of refugees, their communities and the world

Contact
mia@amalaeducation.org
www.amalaeducation.org