

## **Information Statement**

At the invitation of the Chairman, M.Shafik Gabr, of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, Gabr Fellows met in Washington DC on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021. A list of Gabr Fellows that attended the meeting and dinner is attached (annex 1).

The first part of the meeting took place at the Foundation offices and lasted for three hours in which an agenda was covered. Agenda is attached (annex 2).

The get together focused on reigniting the relationship between the different annual groups of the Fellowship that visited Egypt and the US along with their Egyptian counterparts. The American Fellows in attendance updated news of their present activity and outlined their present status and their future endeavours.



**US Gabr Fellows meeting at Shafik Gabr Foundation Offices**

Another key discussion point was a proposal by the Chairman to hold a reunion of all Gabr Fellows of all the classes in Luxor, Egypt in February 2022. After much discussion and recognition of several Fellows work on this topic, including but not limited to Bryan Griffin and Moataz Hussein, it was agreed to focus on the February 2022 date in Luxor, Egypt. These dates were agreed upon.

The group then discussed the Chairman's plans to restart the 'East-West dialogue' initiative in Fall 2022 and to reopen the application process in mid-February 2022. Several suggestions were made and discussed, however at the end of the meeting it was highlighted that the present format of 24 Gabr Fellows being chosen after a 5 step selection process and travel to Egypt for 12 days and 12 days in the US is the most effective.

Other subjects were discussed. Please see agenda (annex 2) attached.

The following action points are underway:

- 1.) Support from Erika Witt to engage with the 2014 Fellows, whilst Dan Sullivan will contact the 2013 Fellows, Suzanne Youngner and Chase Bowman will contact the 2014 fellows, Magda Kura and Murray Abeles will contact the 2015 Fellows, Kevin DeWar and Katherine Tan will lead with the 2016 Fellows, Hunter King will lead with the 2017 Fellows and Charles Truxal with the 2018 Fellows.
- 2.) Hunter King will assist in developing a plan to focus on the Egyptian Caucus in Congress with both members and staffers.
- 3.) The Chairman will meet later in the month with Gabr Fellows in the New York area and with Gabr Fellows in Egypt in December.
- 4.) Phoebe Stephenson shall undertake weekly follow ups.



**US Gabr Fellows at iRicchi restaurant, hosted by the foundation Chairman, M Shafik Gabr**

The meeting was followed by a dinner at iRicchi restaurant on 19<sup>th</sup> Street where engagement continued and discussion ensued. Dinner ended past 11pm.

**Annex 1**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>RESIDENCE</b>
Dan Sullivan	2013 Gabr Fellow	Foundation Ambassador	Boston
Christi Fallon	2013 Gabr Fellow	Looking for work	Washington DC
Stephanie Lord (Cate)	2014 Gabr Fellow	Term Member, Council on Foreign Relations (Mat Leave)	Washington DC
Erika Witt	2014 Gabr Fellow	Doctoral Candidate, Southern University at New Orleans	New Orleans
Chase Bowman	2014 Gabr Fellow	Professor of Design, Concord University	West Virginia
Suzanne Youngner	2014 Gabr Fellow	Senior Program Officer, International Medical Corps	Washington DC
Michael Goff	2014 Gabr Fellow	President and Lead Researcher, Urban Cruise Ship	Oregon
Eze Redwood	2015 Gabr Fellow	Vice President, Lillian James Creative	Kansas City
Magda Kura	2015 Gabr Fellow	Senior Product Manager, Bread	New York
Murray Abeles	2015 Gabr Fellow	Chief of Administration & Finance, NYC Kids Rise	New York
Kevin DeWar	2016 Gabr Fellow	Head of Markets, Globe Inc	San Francisco
Katherine Tan	2016 Gabr Fellow	Program Officer, Gates Foundation	Washington DC
Thomas Hanna	2016 Gabr Fellow	International Trade Analyst, ITA	Washington DC
Michael Matthiesen	2017 Gabr Fellow	Law Student	Miami
Hunter King	2017 Gabr Fellow	Director of Federal Affairs, National Association for Gun Rights	Washington DC
Charles Truxal	2018 Gabr Fellow	Legislative Director, Rep Scott Franklin	Virginia

## **Annex 2**

**16.00** – Welcome remarks from Mr Gabr

**16.15** – Introductions / updates from fellows lead by Phoebe / Aleks

**17.30** – Spotlight on Murray Abeles – 4 minutes of successes / achievements

**17.45** – Spotlight on Christi Fallon – 4 minutes of successes / achievements

**18.00** – Discuss the Fellows reunion and restart of programme in Fall 2022

**Topic 1:** Is ‘cancel culture’ intended to protect people or to silence unpopular opinions in the aim of the ‘public good? – Lead by Magda Kura / Dan Sullivan

- Facebook dilemma
- Free speech vs allowing spread of misinformation
- Future of social media

**18:55** – Closing remarks from Mr Gabr