

British Embassy celebrates International Day of the Girl

World news story

The British Embassy in Cairo invited a young woman to step into the British Ambassador's shoes in celebration of the International Day of the Girl.



11 October 2020, CAIRO – In a virtual setting, the British Embassy in Cairo invited a young woman, 18-year-old Fatma Al Hefnawy, to step into the British Ambassador's shoes, meeting with the Ambassador and embassy staff to learn about the work they do, in celebration of the International Day of the Girl.

The 'GirlsTakeOver' initiative is organized by Plan International, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) and the Canadian Embassy in Cairo. On this day, embassies, ministries and international organizations host young women to give them an opportunity to experience leadership positions in an effort to promote young women's right to leadership, showcase opportunities they have awaiting them and provide them with a platform to be heard.

After meeting with British Ambassador to Egypt Sir Geoffrey Adams, Al Hefnawy met with two senior women in the Embassy, Her Majesty's Consul in Cairo and the Department for International Trade Country Director, to discuss how women navigate their roles in leadership positions and the challenges they face.

Al Hefnawy also met with the embassy's communications and social development and gender teams to talk about this year's International Day of the Girl's key message on online harassment of girls and cyberbullying. This follows an open letter written by young women around the world to the world's most influential social media platforms calling on them to create better tools to help them report online abuse and harassment.

Fatma Al Hefnawy said:

We must work together to stand against bullying because it can really destroy anyone. This is a very important topic and I am

happy I participated today and learned a lot. I am proud to have spoken with the British Ambassador to Egypt.

British Ambassador to Egypt Sir Geoffrey Adams said:

It was a pleasure hosting Fatma in honour of the International Day of the Girl. The UK has been a huge advocate of women's empowerment and supporting women's political and economic inclusion. We applaud Egypt's strong commitment to promoting gender equality and their efforts to empower young women to reject all forms of violence. We look forward to strengthening our partnership in this area.

Published 12 October 2020