



Changemaker Lens

A Global Youth Storytelling Exhibition

Changemaker Lens is an exhibition and storytelling platform that brings together young changemakers across countries and disciplines. Globally, art, photography, and creative expression have been used in the face of systemic oppression to resist, to survive, and to build community.

At St James's, we are looking to support the next generation's Changemakers – young people **aged 18-30** who have a vision for a better world. Changemaker Lens carries the central inquiry of the St James's Youth Changemaker Programme:

**What if leadership is something we can live together,
rather than something we hold alone?**



We want young people to:

- Claim your own narrative in a world that often speaks over you
- Build connection across language, geography and circumstance
- Challenge the reductive stories told about your communities
- Be heard, and more importantly - listened to.

A photograph of a quiet morning in Gaza, a spoken word piece from Washington, or a video diary from a young person in London does not simply show a moment. It reveals the inner life of a generation who are trying to make sense of a rapidly changing world.

How Will it Work?

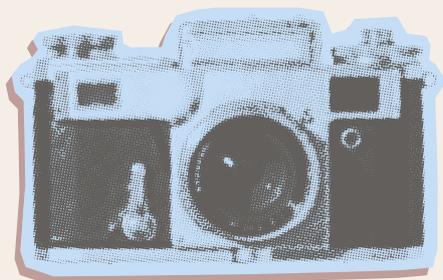
Successful applicants will be invited into a creative process which will include:

- Guided reflection prompts
- Conversations about ethical storytelling
- Peer reflections
- Grants of up to £1000

You may choose photography, short video, painting, audio reflection, graffiti art, illustration, digital collage or other accessible forms.

What matters is a commitment to social justice, honesty, dignity and connection rather than polish.

We will curate an exhibition in London on 26th May 2026, bringing together young people, social impact organisations, cultural institutions, funders, and activists.



Who Should Apply?

You should apply if you are someone between the ages of 18-30 with:

- A story to tell
- Creative energy
- Imagination for a fairer, more just world
- Belief in the power of community and collective action

Joint and group applications will be considered.

DEADLINE for applications:

23rd March 2026

INTERVIEWS:

Week commencing 6th April 2026

EXHIBITION DATES:

26th May in London. September in New York (remote).

TO APPLY:

Please send us:

1. An example of your work (this can be in the format of imagery, a website, an online/digital portfolio, social media accounts, etc.)
It does not need to be a finished piece of work.

2. A two-page essay or 5-8 minute video diary, explaining:

- Who you are (anything you want to tell us about yourself)
- How your lived experience informs your work
- The narrative of what called you to create this piece of work
- How your work is challenging the status quo or calling for a cultural shift
- How you hope your participation in Changemaker Lens will support your work



Please send the above to Marwah at depdirector.changemakers@sjp.org.uk