Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative Case Studies
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I order a Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative case study?

If you don’t already have an account with Harvard Business Publishing, please follow the steps in Part A. If you do have an account, skip to Part B.

Part A
1. Open your web browser and go to https://hbsp.harvard.edu/home/
2. At the top right hand corner, click on the “Register Now” link.
3. On the next screen, select “I’m neither of these.”
4. Fill out the registration form on the following screen:

Register for individual access!

An individual account allows you to save and organize materials in collections and make direct purchases (some product restrictions apply). Register as an individual if you are not an educator at a degree-granting institution or enrolled as a student.
Part B


2. This will bring up a list of the entire ALI collection. Locate the case(s) you would like to purchase and click on the title.

3. From the case page, click “Add to cart.”

4. When you are done selecting your cases. Click on checkout cart in the top right corner.

5. Review your order and follow the Checkout instructions until your purchase is complete.
What is the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative (ALI) case collection?

The Harvard ALI case collection covers a growing range of early stage complex and ambitious social change efforts led by experienced and accomplished senior leaders who completed a Fellowship in Harvard University’s Advanced Leadership Initiative program. These leaders’ social impact goals are large and come in many forms and cut across many sectors on topics ranging from reducing poverty to accelerating economic development to ensuring human rights to improving health. Solving these challenges have political and technical dimensions that cannot be addressed with a simple one-off approach. These leaders identify unique ways to leverage their skills, resources, and networks as they begin to navigate these complex challenges. They face circumstances where authority is diffused or divided, goals are unclear or conflicting, multiple stakeholders with divergent interests exist, and outcomes are notoriously hard to measure. The beginning of these leaders’ journeys as they pursue their theory of change provide very informative and important educational lessons.

What is the goal of the Harvard ALI case collection?

The Harvard ALI case collection was designed for educational purposes. The Harvard ALI case collection will help shape and contribute to a growing body of knowledge about how to change society at the system or institutional level. This is achieved through innovations that improve education, health, environmental stewardship, urban revitalization, human rights, access to justice, and other complex multi-stakeholder issues.

This Harvard ALI collection can also help former participants of the Harvard ALI program solidify their own learning by evaluating their peers’ early experiences and by reinforcing the wide range of concepts learned during their Harvard Advanced Leadership Fellowship year. The tools include important themes about change, including: coalition building, framing a narrative, 7 key leadership skills, identifying and overcoming resistance to change, and more.

The Harvard ALI case collection can additionally support the establishment of a new stage of higher education for late-stage learners who will use the knowledge to change society and its institutions, individually and collectively making a difference on global, national, and community problems. The Harvard ALI case protagonists can also serve as models for other late career social entrepreneurs, whether or not they participate in Harvard’s Advanced Leadership Initiative or a similar program.

How are Harvard ALI cases used?

Harvard ALI cases were written for educational purposes and may be used by a variety of audiences as they are available to the general public for purchase.

• Harvard ALI Fellows in their core curriculum and participants in similar programs
• Students in various academic institutions and company courses across the globe
• Academic Administrators interested in learning more about this new stage of higher education
• Individuals, Change Agents, Academics, etc. who want to learn more about specific topics covered by ALI cases
• Case Protagonists might use them to help educate people on their social change endeavors
• Prospective Harvard ALI Fellows to gain a deeper understanding of the concept of advanced leadership

How are Harvard ALI cases developed?

Because Harvard ALI cases are used for teaching purposes, Faculty members lead the effort in identifying the types of social change efforts that are aligned with Harvard ALI research goals, while ensuring a diverse range of content. Faculty, working with the Harvard ALI Research Director and students, oversee the completion of Harvard ALI case studies. Each case study has at least one dedicated researcher who gathers and analyzes information from interviews, company documents, and relevant databases.

Can I propose my own/others’ work as a potential Harvard ALI case study?

While we welcome your input on identifying potential Harvard ALI cases, please note that the Harvard ALI case collection encompasses a wide range of content including teaching notes, conceptual frameworks, applied tools, reports on global experiences, and background notes that capture various challenges and solutions. You may reach out to the Harvard ALI Research Director with your suggestions and we will consider it given our research priorities.