

Note from Shana Hazboun

I was first introduced to the Charney Resolution Center when my journey started at the Eastern Mediterranean International School in 2017. I was very young, a mere 16 years of age, but I knew I felt very strongly about the political sphere that was around me. Jesus and I share a birthplace, but the only difference is that I was born during the Second Intifada and He was born during Herod's Massacre of the Innocents. The simple status of my birthplace made me very aware of my political identity, adversities, but also the serendipity of it all. My name is Shana Hazboun, and I am the newest addition to the CRC Ambassador Program. The reason I am here is because I believe this is an opportunity for me to educate, both people around me and myself.

Evoking a change is a principle I am very passionate about, and one way I am currently implementing that is through the gap year I am currently taking. I am volunteering at EMIS' boarding house, school, and most recently helping the CRC with the upcoming peace simulation that they carry out annually at EMIS. Other than the peace simulation, I will also be working with social media content. I never truly understood the impact that social media had towards our globalized world up until I was exposed to the importance of accessibility, and how it promotes equity through equal access to provide equal opportunity.

My principle, regarding evoking change, initially stemmed from the understanding I gained from being involved with many different people from across the region. I understand the adversities people involved in the conflict have to endure, and I also understand how that only adds onto the complexity of the situation. There is frustration that has been ignited in me due to the lack of knowledge about this region and its people, and this is why I am here to learn more, myself, and also help educate. I am aware that it is an ongoing learning process but with that I still want to share what I have learned and been exposed to thus far.

And this is what I hope to do.