

# TAKE A LOOK AT HOW WE CHANGED CHILDREN'S LIVES THIS MONTH

Donate here to help us protect children from all types of abuse

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## Our Capacity Building and Research and Development program conducted a training with over a 100 General Security officers.

As part of our efforts to capacitate the community to prevent, detect and report cases of child abuse, himaya's CBRD team, in collaboration with Save The Children, provided a training session addressed to more than 100 General Security Officers around the topic of child abuse prevention and related law enforcement.

The team was also able to get an official approval from the General Security directorate on a circular that outlines the investigative guidelines for investigations with children.

The circular reads as follows:

المذكرة رقم: 800/أ/ص/ع

التاريخ: 9/10/2020

الموضوع: تعميم موجّه إلى عناصر قوى الأمن العام حول كيفية التحقيق مع الأطفال المعرّضين للخطر أو المخالفين للقانون.

في سياق التعاون القائم بين المديرية العامة للأمن العام وكلّ من جمعية إنقاذ الطفل وجمعية حماية حول تدريب عناصر الأمن العام في مجال حماية الطفل، ومن أجل ضمان مصلحة الطفل الفضلى أثناء التحقيقات، صدر بتاريخ 9/10/2020، تعميم منقول عن المديرية العامة للأمن العام، بإدارة اللواء عباس إبراهيم، تناول ضرورة التقيد بالتعليمات المتعلقة بآلية التحقيق مع الطفل وضمن عدم التسبب له بالأذى وذلك وفقاً لثلاث نقاط أساسية هي:

سلوك المحقّق المُرتكز على إتباع مبدأ "المحافظة على مصلحة الطفل الفضلى" وعدم التسبب له بالأذى -

تأمين مكان ملائم يراعي خصوصية الطفل واعتماد تقنيّات التواصل الصديقة والفعّالة أثناء التحقيق معه -

PEACE. إتباع مراحل التحقيق مع الطفل استناداً إلى نموذج -

والجدير ذكره، أنّ عدم التزام عناصر الأمن العام بمضمون هذا التعميم، يعرّضهم للمساءلة المسلكية.

# himaya's prevention team has been capacitating community members, to become youth leaders who raise awareness within their communities.

Every year, the world celebrates the "International Day of Peace". For that reason, The U.N organizes a yearly event called "Shaping Peace Together". This year and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the event took place online and Maria and Fouad Sfeir, animators from the Ajaltoun Safe Park, were representing himaya and Lebanon during the event.

himaya's animators were also part of the committee in charge of organizing the event and monitoring all technical malfunctions that may occur during the streaming of the event.



14 October 2020

Dear Young Ambassadors and Leaders of Living Peace International,

Please allow me to express my sincere congratulations on the vital work you carry out in fostering a culture of peace and intercultural dialogue across sectors and benefiting people of all ages, goals which are at the heart of the United Nations.

I wish to particularly thank you for your leadership as young people in your communities to promote peace. The United Nations share your commitment to having youth, positioned as unique change-makers striving for a better future for all, at the forefront of building a sustainable and peaceful world envisioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Youth Strategy - Youth2030.

The United Nations share your vision that this world will only be possible if peoples, communities, organizations, and nations worldwide join forces to build it. I express my sincere gratitude that we may count on your partnership in this endeavor.

Thank you for your pivotal work, and I wish you all the best in your efforts henceforth.

Yours sincerely,

Jayathma Wickramanayake  
Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

Young Ambassadors and Leaders  
Living Peace International



Maria and Fouad both received the title of Peace Ambassadors from the secretariat of the UN and when asked what makes them eligible for that title Maria explains “you become a peace ambassador in your own life and in the lives of all of those around you”. In Fouad’s words “this is the beginning of our journey, a journey in which every step matter to lead the positive change I want to see in this world”.



### Testimony of a Young Lebanese Ambassador

Today, as a Young Ambassador of Peace, my vision for a better world and the goals I want to achieve in life go far beyond the title itself!

An ambassador is a person sent to a certain place or environment to promote and represent a specified activity, an idea, or even a culture. The real question that I ask myself today is "how can I carry with me the values of peace around my neighborhood, family, and friends if I lack the true meaning of love, tolerance and fraternity?"

Here is my answer: I believe we are all hiding a flame inside of our humble hearts, a flame burning with passion to help others, listen to each other, forgive the sinners, shelter the poor...

By keeping that flame alive, only then can we share our inner peace to the world and become true ambassadors of peace! In the end, I can say that this is only the beginning of my journey, a journey towards peace in which every small step matters to lead the positive change I want to see in this world!



Fouad Sfeir  
Living Peace Lebanon



### Testimony of a Young Lebanese Ambassador

The title of « Young Ambassador of Peace », is something big and challenging for me, but I remember what Mother Teresa said: « Peace begins with smile ». This quote shows us that peace is found in the very simple and easy things we do in our daily lives. Being a « Peace Ambassador » is not being able to do huge projects, campaigns, international events... no. I actually realized that it means « being able to find and make peace in the tiniest things of this world ». It's easy to spread peace in huge international projects, I mean anyone can do this; therefore it's really hard to find peace in ourselves, in our home, our family, our prayers, our thoughts... and this is what a « Peace Ambassador » is supposed to do. The question is: where is the biggest challenge in all this? Well another peace ambassador once told me: « You become the peace ambassador of your own life and generally in your presence in everybody's life. » Finding my inner peace, connecting with others, and taking full responsibility of my acts towards them, are the biggest challenge. This is like what the Little Prince said: « You become responsible forever for what you have tamed ».



Finally, as an ambassador of peace, I promise to love in a world where there is no love; to make peace possible in a world where it seems impossible. I choose the difficult path to take because I am convinced that it is worth it!


With so much peace and love,

Maria Sfeir  
Living Peace Lebanon

The event was a major success when it comes to capacitating community members and supporting youth in becoming ambassadors of child protection in their own communities.

## BREAK THE SILENCE, BE A QUDWA

This month we were very proud to announce the launching of our campaign "ما تخبّي", in partnership with UNICEF. The purpose of the campaign is to bring to light the importance of taking an active role in protecting children and preventing child abuse by not turning a blind eye and reporting cases of child abuse. The campaign was launched with a [video](#) tackling the issue of "remaining silent" with a final call to action to remind viewers of their responsibility of speaking and reporting cases of child abuse.



ما تخبّي...خبّر حماية  
03 414 964

To watch the video, [CLICK HERE](#)

We are encouraging individuals to become inspiring and active agents within their communities and become a role model; a QUDWA, leading by example when it comes to protecting children throughout Lebanon. The campaign promotes the need to break the barrier of fear and report situations of abuse through himaya's hotline: 03 414 964

## BREAK THE SILENCE, BE A QUDWA

The campaign also consists of a coordinated series of informative posts and a web-series during which, different prominent media figures and influencers, sit down with himaya's own experts to discuss topics related to child abuse. The live sessions are done in the style of a television studio and subsequently posted online for further visualizations.

[CLICK HERE to watch the full episodes.](#)



In addition, we launched a “pledge” reflecting the commitment of every citizen as responsible individuals when it comes to protecting children within their society. The “pledge” is a social media sticker that is being used by influencers to reiterate their promise to defend children’s rights and protect them from any form of abuse; thus, urging others to do the same, and in turn, become a QUDWA within their communities as well.

TAKE THE PLEDGE on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)





Following the Beirut Port Explosion our staff scanned the areas directly affected searching for families in need of aid. They came across Raya, a 4-year-old child, and her family. At first, it seemed like they needed support because of the explosion, but as the team would soon discover, there were underlying problems that went much deeper. The explosion only served to expose them further.

The explosion rocked Raya's house, to the extent that it almost threw her little brother off the balcony. The whole place was in ruins. For half an hour, Raya could not reach her mother because of the rubble. For the following weeks, the whole family would suffer from profound terror and panic.

Although their house was completely destroyed by the explosion, the team suspected that the conditions in which they previously lived were already critical, there was no furniture and hardly any space to live in. Everything indicated the family was living in extreme poverty. They knew this family needed much more help than just goods and aid, so they redirected to our resilience team to receive psycho-social support

When she arrived at himaya, Raya was in very poor conditions. She couldn't sleep, had incontinence, she barely ate and was extremely attached to her mother. Raya lacked basic developmental skills; she had been raised without a proper education and could barely articulate or express feelings beyond anger or being okay and didn't know how to use a pen and a paper. The case presented a wide array of challenges.

During the first session, our psychologists discovered that the mother, who was also suffering from anxiety and insomnia, had accumulated a lot of trauma from past experiences, especially from the tragic miscarriage of one of her daughters, Raya's twin sister. For so many years she had left a very profound trauma left untreated, only made worse by the explosion, and this was spilling over her daughter. She had not been educated and didn't have the means to educate her daughter, both had developed an extreme attachment towards one another and neither of them had the verbal capacity to express the depth of their trauma.

Himaya started helping both Raya and her mother. First, they taught them basic techniques of destressing, breathing and relaxing. Then they went deeper into treating trauma. Raya needed to acquire skills that would enable her future education and her mom needed mechanisms to organize herself and get control, to provide a good future for her daughter.

The psychologist noticed in Raya the potential for expression through drawing, which was something she had to learn first. She learnt how to express a lot of her emotions and fears through drawing. When a huge thunderstorm terrified her and her mother, bringing traumatizing memories of the explosion, the psychologists taught Raya to understand thunderstorms and to properly explain them through drawing. Thanks to that, she is making a lot of progress in articulating her emotions and her needs with more accuracy and complexity. She now likes to explain everything around her and teach her friends and family about several things through her drawings.

Raya's mother was learning a lot as well: about the importance of mental health, about the relation between poverty and trauma, and most importantly about the relevance of education for the development of her daughter. Our team gave her tips on how to organize and manage her time properly to not let her issues overcome her. She started encouraging Raya to learn more, through books, through pictures and through educational videos.

If they hadn't reached himaya, they would have probably left their new traumas snowball into greater problems in life. Our staff is used to dealing with these problems holistically, to cover every need these families may have to ensure the safety and the health of children. We reached them at a critical point for Raya's development, which served as a turning point that would shape the rest of her life.

The family is not only living in much better conditions, but Raya is also slowly developing essential skills to understand and interact with her surroundings. Her mother is gradually overcoming her traumas, becoming much more in control of her circumstances and learning how to build a healthier relation with her daughter. The case is still ongoing but, despite the challenges, the progress being made is massive.

**At himaya we are painfully aware of the links between psychological and social issues, and that dealing with cases like these requires a thorough approach. First, to ensure the basic material needs of the families and second, to provide them with enough psychological tools to manage the trauma and overall poverty.**

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO SINCE THE  
AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> BLAST?



**himaya**  
For innocence in danger

# POST-BLAST REPORT

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP  
TO SINCE AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>?

NOVEMBER 2020  
CUMULATIVE REPORT

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL REPORT](#)



# WE ARE PROUD MEMBERS OF



# MEET OUR PARTNERS

