

Humanist Of Greater Portland Scholarship
The Start of an Equal World

I am a Muslim-American young lady, living in a world with judgmental individuals. I sometimes feel like I live in constant fear that something will happen. For instance, we get strange looks, as if we are from a different planet. One day I was at a coffee shop, and an older woman began yelling at me that, "I did not belong here". I began defended my religion, and she started yelling and called me a "brat" and " a rude girl." When individuals say things like "Go back to your country", it shows me how divided our world is. I still get comments like that, but instead of stooping down to their level, I smile and walk away. It shows those kind of individuals who Muslims people truly are and says a lot about my character. I have deep commitment to working hard in school, dedication to the volunteer work I do, helping individuals, and to my culture.

In school, it is very difficult to be attached to your religion and have friends, because they do not all understand your values. Students would make fun of me and not want to be my friend, because I was not like them. They would try to make me not listen to my parents, and tried to lead me to the wrong path. I got closer to my religion, would ask God for help, and would talk to my parents very often. It lowered my self-esteem and made me feel as if there was something wrong with me. Though, I listened to my parents and found a new group of friends, which showed me that the best version of myself is my true self. This encouraged me to help make a change in this world. I started joining many different unity and human rights clubs like, Amnesty International Club at my school. I helped begin a program for Muslim students to be apart of the change in this world. It was to help regain their confidence and to help give back to

society. It is called “Muslim Students Association”. I help organize talks and meeting for students to be apart of. This has gotten me closer to my religion and to society. I am also a Student Ambassador at my school, where I help unite our school as a whole. We volunteer at events to help include and welcome new cultures to our school.

I want to continue this change, to help unite our world as a whole. In order to help address these issues, I think it is important for students to get involved in volunteer programs, that promote this positive change to our world. Relating to the, “Black Lives Matter” movements, it conveys that there are real-life issues that need to be dealt with in our society, and that is why it is important for students to be mostly involved and help express the change that needs to be done. Individuals need to hear from movements what African Americans go through, and how they get unjust treatment based on their race. These changes need to start from the younger generation. We have to work hard, so that the next generation never have to experience these horrifying issues. We need to create more marches, clubs that include everyone, and more associations.

It deeply bothers me when I hear of unequal treatment because of race, or the dehumanization of an individual; for example, for being a women. I vigorously believe no one should ever be judged for their identities, culture, or race, because all these factors is what makes an individual unique. It is very devastating to hear about the reasons behind movements like the, #MeToo movement. It perceives to one, that our society is not developing in a positive manner. I think it is significant to spread the word about the dehuizations women are facing, by having society learn more about the human rights of an individual, and showing them what women go through. There are situations where women are forced to commit horrible actions, so that their

bosses would not fire them. This is truly unjust, because it does not give women the freedom of making their own choices.

In college, I will continue to go to marches and spread the word about the oppressions individuals are facing. We are all equal, and no matter who the individual is, they should still be respected. I want to create more clubs and associations that spread the message of a positive change. I want everyone to be judged by their character, not what they look like or their identities.

Conclusively, it would be an honor to get this scholarship, because it would give me a greater opportunity to work on a positive change for our community, and spread more love and respect to one another.

Word Count: 756