

**Service Learning Conference**  
**"Current Status and Future Prospects of Service Learning"**  
Bethlehem, Palestine, May, 2023

**Workshop**

**Global Citizenship and Advocacy**

**Content:**

**List of the Projects that will be presented in the Service Learning Symposium by the Department of English and Communication**

**1-Big Screen for a Greener Campus:**

This service learning assignment will be presented as one of the requirements for the course "Introduction to Public Relations" offered by the Department of English and Communication at Bethlehem University. The idea is to reduce paper consumption at the university by installing a sustainable big screen in the Millennium building. Instead of using paper announcements, the screen would display campus announcements and videos/posters raising awareness about environmental, economic, and social issues in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, the project aims to increase students' awareness of paper recycling and establish a collection point for paper waste to be recycled. The project team has discussed their ideas with the Advancement Office at BU, and the director has promised to provide support, including partial or full funding, given the importance of the project in promoting the image of BU campus as environmental friendly. However, funding is still pending.

**2- Empowering Students with Disabilities at Bethlehem University: A Needs Assessment:**

This service learning assignment will be presented as one of the requirements for the course "Introduction to Public Relations" offered by the Department of English and Communication at Bethlehem University. The service learning assignment idea involves conducting a survey and interviews with students with disabilities at Bethlehem University to identify their needs for devices, programs, and services that can make their personal, academic, and professional lives easier. The results of the study will be shared with an Italian non-governmental organization called EDUCAID, which carries out various programs that aim to empower students with disabilities in education.

**3- Bethlehem Animal Allies: Supporting the Work of the Bethlehem Animal and Environment Association**

This service learning assignment will be presented as one of the requirements for the course "Introduction to Advocacy" offered by the Department of English and Communication at Bethlehem University. The project's objective is to raise awareness and advocate for animal welfare, specifically for stray dogs in Palestine. The Bethlehem Animal and Environment Association is the only active non-profit organization that fights for animal rights in Palestine, but it depends on international donations and adopters. Due to the lack of awareness of animal welfare in Palestinian society, animals are often subjected to brutal treatment, such as the killing of street dogs and poisoning to reduce their population. The purpose of this project is to raise awareness and take action to defend stray dogs against social misconceptions and abuse, making a lasting communal impact. The project includes several activities, such as advocating with the BU Community Service Office to officially include the Bethlehem Animal and Environment Association among the organizations that the community service course permits students to volunteer with. Additionally, awareness sessions on animal rights will be conducted with BU students, and volunteers will regularly visit the shelter to walk dogs to alleviate their suffering from being confined inside the shelter for long periods.

#### **4-SDGs Awareness Day at BU:**

This service learning assignment will be presented as one of the requirements for the course "Introduction to Advocacy" offered by the Department of English and Communication at Bethlehem University. The project is focused on raising awareness about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project aims to inform Bethlehem University students about the significance of SDGs and how implementing them can benefit the community and individuals. The project involves activities such as distributing posters with QR codes, fun games, and a Kahoot contest to engage students and inform them about SDGs. The students who work on this project have contacted the UNDP, and the UNDP promised to provide all required assistance for holding this day.

#### **5- From Victim to Survivor, Supporting Women in Need:**

This service learning assignment will be presented as one of the requirements for the course "Introduction to Advocacy" offered by the Department of English and Communication at Bethlehem University. This project aims to advocate for women who are abused and marginalized in the Palestinian society. The project plans to work with the Mehwar Center, which provides shelter and other forms of protection for abused women, to produce a promotional video that provides information about legal and social resources and services that can provide abused women with protection and help. The activity will include a session at BU to raise awareness about violence against women and the resources of help that are available to them. The project hopes to make a positive impact and prevent more women from becoming victims of violence.

### **6-Unity through Diversity: Exploring Interfaith Practices and Fasting**

This service learning assignment will be presented as one of the requirements for the course "Global Citizenship" offered by the Department of English and Communication at Bethlehem University. The project aims to facilitate interfaith dialogue between Christian and Muslim students on campus, focusing on the topic of fasting during the same period. The project involves collecting five Christian and five Muslim students to participate in two meetings, where they will share their opinions and learn from each other. The project also includes a voluntary activity on campus where water bottles and dates will be distributed to students, followed by an inter-faith iftar.

### **7-Destigmatizing Mental Health in Palestine:**

This service learning assignment will be presented as one of the requirements for the course "Introduction to Advocacy" offered by the Department of English and Communication at Bethlehem University. The project aims to de-stigmatize mental health, especially in women, children, and young teens. A group of three students will be placed at the Psychology Spa, which is a Palestinian NGO that fights mental health stigma. The group will participate in several activities within a wider campaign to de-stigmatize mental health in Palestine. The campaign's motto is "No Action is Too Small," and it involves talking with people who have dealt with mental health issues and sharing their experiences with a wider audience in order to create a safe space for them. The campaign also aims to raise awareness about organizations that aid people with mental health issues and increase access to treatment. The group will also recruit volunteers to talk about their opinions and experiences, as well as public figures to take part in the project.

### **8-Journey of Transformation: Volunteering with World Vision's Transformational Development Principles:**

This service learning assignment will be presented as one of the requirements for the course "Global Citizenship" offered by the Department of English and Communication at Bethlehem University. The service learning assignment involves volunteering at World Vision, an NGO that addresses humanitarian issues globally. The organization focuses on poverty and health issues, with a goal to create a better life for underprivileged children and people in need. World Vision achieves sustainable development through its Transformational Development principles of listening, including, empowering, connecting, challenging, and adapting. The volunteer will focus on the health and poverty factor and participate in a field work to experience the organization's work firsthand and assist in helping people in refugee camps around the West Bank.

### **9- From Local to Global: Empowering Palestinian Youth to become Global Citizens.**

This service learning assignment will be presented as one of the requirements for the course "Global Citizenship" offered by the Department of English and Communication at Bethlehem University. The activity aims to educate young Palestinians about global citizenship and its relation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by offering an interactive workshop at the American House, a cultural center affiliated with the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. The workshop will comprise a lecture, interactive activities, and a pre-test and post-test self-assessment questionnaire. The lecture will cover topics such as the definition and types of global citizenship, the importance of SDGs, and the responsibilities of global citizens. The activity will last for two hours.

Name(s): Handi Younan Ramzi Asali

Affiliation: Bethlehem University