

## **NASERIAN**

### **How the 2020 Women of the World Displaced Women's Scholarship has increased my self-reliance and voice in the community**

I am honored to be a recipient of 2020 Women of the World Displaced Women's Scholarship for Spring semester 2020. I am grateful this scholarship is available to help displaced women achieve their educational goals and other long-term future goals. When I received this scholarship, I was in my last semester of college I and did not have enough funds to finish my semester. Receiving this scholarship made me stay in school and I was able to finish my semester successfully. Besides finishing school, this scholarship enabled me to gain more self-reliance and my voice in the community.

Getting the WoW scholarship enabled me to complete college without any financial difficulty. I am honored to be a first-generation college student in my family. I made my family very proud when graduated. Besides this, I am happy to say that I am self-reliant at the moment upon completion of my college. I have a very good job that I love, and I am able to depend on myself. I am looking forward to paying my own master's degree when the time comes. I plan on going to Law School and pursue a human rights Law degree and I certainly plan on going back home {Kenya} after Law School to help people especially women that are going through a lot of injustice. There is a lot that is needs to be done and that will never happen if we don't have serious and committed people put their energy into helping them. I want to fight for the rights of women in Kenya. I want to make sure women are educated about their rights and what is needed of them. I want to ban female Genital mutilation and early child marriages. Girls are forced to go through that process of being mutilated and then they are forced to get married at a young age. That is not going to happen again because I will do my best through the help of other women and hopefully with the help of the constitution. I would like them to have equality as every other person elsewhere. I believe in change and positive change in that matter. I believe everything is possible as long as we don't give up.

I have never been afraid to use my voice in the community. However, the fact that I completed my degree made me gain more skills that I can use professionally when using my voice in the community. I am currently working on a project to help women in my community that went through female genital mutilation so that they can get FGM reconstructive surgery. The whole process has stopped due to COVID. Hopefully everything gets back to normal as soon. Getting this scholarship and college completion is the reason why I started this project. I would say this is how I increased my voice in the community. Paying it forward.

Thank you so much for the work that you're doing. Thank you for your kindness and everything that you're doing to help displaced women in Utah accomplish their educational goals. I wish every woman had an opportunity like this to help them accomplish their goals and help them become self-reliant. Self-reliance and economic stability are very important things in the community because it gives

women the freedom to do what they want to do for themselves and that goes a very long way.