

Danaan Women's Unity League – Vice President (F)

Background

You are from the US and just recently moved to Danaan. You met the President of the Danaan Women's Unity League (DWUL) in graduate school and a few months ago she offered you the position of Vice President. Since graduation you had been working as a Research Assistant for Interpeace. You also spent one summer in Golana as an intern for a legal services clinic. You received your master's degree in NGO management, which is why the President chose you for this position. She believes your knowledge and experience will be vital for re-establishing the image of DWUL and bringing the regional branches under a single national umbrella.

You are still getting used to life in Danaan and realize that you have much to learn about the dynamics of DWUL. The organization has a rich history in the women's movement, yet there is a complicated past and much animosity between regional leaders. You have spent the past month traveling the country, speaking with all of the remaining regional branches. The regional branches are varied in their composition and activities, some are very organized with a clear leadership structure, while others are more ad hoc in nature. There is no consensus on whether the national organization should be revived. Many of the regional leaders are against the idea of re-establishing a national office and are even resentful of the President for suggesting it. You are unsure of whether there is a future for DWUL beyond this peace process.

What you hope to accomplish

Despite DWUL's organizational challenges, your primary agenda is to promote women's inclusion in the peace process. You also want to secure women and girl's access to education and ensure that women are provided with economic opportunities after the conflict is over. Many women and girls have also been victims of rape and sexual violence; you want to make sure that their needs are addressed as well. In your travels to DWUL regional offices you've learned that women local leaders are increasingly seen as trusted, neutral arbiters and peacebuilders, perhaps because so many men have left their homes to take up arms. Woman leaders associated with DWUL are taking charge in their own communities, working to restore schools and initiate restorative justice programs.

You have attended many of the civil society meetings hosted by the ROEI Commission on Gender, and hope to develop a close relationship with the Commission and other international NGOs. You believe their expertise, connections, and potential funding opportunities will make an impact on women's inclusion in the talks and could also help DWUL regain its footing as a leading women's organization.

The President wants displaced Tarim communities to be able to return home. She believes the AFD is the main perpetrator of violence against civilians in Danaan and that they need to be held accountable for their crimes. She also believes that all Nurul and Warod refugees and IDPs are AFD sympathizers and thus deserve their fate. You believe that the conflict is too complex to assign blame, but are uncomfortable to say this outwardly.

You are aware that the organization 4Peace is currently seen as the country's leading women's rights organization and receives strong support from the international NGO Women United International.

4Peace representatives have also attended the Commission's convenings, so you know they're also advocating for women's inclusion. You heard that the Executive Director of 4Peace is famous around the world for her work, which is intriguing. 4Peace could be a powerful partner and someone to learn from, but there are a few warning signs. First, you've heard that the government doesn't fully trust 4Peace because of its suspected ties to the AFD. And, second, if the 4Peace Executive Director is indeed famous and 4Peace is the leading women's rights organization in Danaan, why have they made such little progress on the women's inclusion? You want to learn more about 4Peace and to critically assess whether being linked to them would hurt or help your cause.

You want to meet the US Special Envoy and the UK Special Envoy to see if they would be willing to support DWUL and pass along your demands to the Joint Mediation Team and negotiating parties. Having partners like the US or UK would add legitimacy to your organization's work and help to restore DWUL's reputation.

Capacity to create change

You know that DWUL is a shell of its former self, but you believe it still has the capacity to make a significant impact. DWUL's regional branches have been operating in local communities for decades and there are many women within this network that could be great representatives in the peace process.

Relationships with other roles

You know the ROEI Commission on Gender representative from attending her consultations. From the consultations you're also familiar with 4Peace, although you haven't directly met their representatives. You know that the Executive Director also met the Women United International representative at an earlier set of consultations and seems keen to develop a relationship with DWUL.