



**THE
HAGUE
PEACE
PROJECTS**



The Hague X Beirut



PROJECT SUMMARY



The **Hague X Beirut** attempts to support human rights activists and artists in Beirut - in face of a severe economic crisis, governmental repression, and the desolation of the city following the explosion in the capital's port on August 4th, 2020.

This project strives to **empower** the local populations' pursuit of human rights, peace, and freedom of speech by increasing the global visibility of activists, facilitating the market capacity of local artists, and supporting the livelihood of human rights defenders.

The main goal of this project is to contribute to the **basic needs** of human rights activists in Beirut, in order that they may focus on (re-)building a more peaceful and democratic Lebanon.

The Hague X Beirut is a multi-media and sales project to achieve positive social impact in Beirut. It has a primary focus on the use of **Instagram** as a

tool to mobilize the voice of the population, and on **ARTivism** (Art + Activism) as a tool to encourage active participation in Beiruti society.

PROJECT METHODS

1. The publication of an Instagram-inspired **photographic book** based on the voices of collaborating artists and activists to explain the situation in Lebanon.
2. An online **sales campaign** to raise funds through the sale of prints on canvas, photographs, and art pieces.
3. An **Instagram campaign** to raise awareness, and to create momentum for the sales campaign.
4. The publishing on the HPP's **Medium.com** page of at least ten articles about topics related to Lebanon.

PROJECT OUTPUT

1. The provision for the basic needs of three human rights activists based in Beirut for a minimum of six months.
2. The payments to artists collaborating with this campaign.
3. The increase of the global visibility of human rights activists in Beirut.

PROJECT IMPACT

1. A greater and more effective defence of human rights in Lebanon.
2. Facilitate activist artists in Lebanon to grow their market capacity and establish a better position in the global marketplace.
3. Improve the safety of protesters in Lebanon through increased visibility, and media and political attention.
4. Increase the scope and freedom of speech of human rights defenders in Lebanon.



PROJECT BACKGROUND

Since the end of the Lebanese civil war in 1990, the country's institutions have been organised as a system of **sectarian division**. Despite this, Beirut has continued to thrive and express a richness of diverse identities and traditions. This vibrant capital is known for its parties, but also

for its engaged and creative citizens.

In October 2019, in protest against the major economic crisis, Lebanese civilians from all classes and religions called for the resignation of the political class, and for the creation of a brand new system of government. This became known as the '**October 17' movement**'.

Lebanese citizens were protesting against the ruling political class, which lost its legitimacy due to a history of mismanagement and the violent repression of protests. But,



as the movement intensified, the **Covid-19** pandemic took hold and forced the country on its knees.

On **August 4th**, 2020, two explosions in Beirut's port were felt as far away as Turkey. They resulted in 203 deaths and thousands of injuries, including the loss of more than 10 billion dollars in property damage. **The geographical impact of these explosions is about half the size of The Netherlands.** As a result of the explosions, **human rights activists, artists, and civilians in Beirut have**

lost their homes, livelihoods and jobs. However, despite these critical conditions, they continue to take social action and advocate for change.

This project is directed at those people who are **still fighting** for their universal human rights and freedoms, and takes place at a critical moment in the history of Lebanon. **The stakes are very high** in one of the most relevant countries in the Middle East, and this year will make a critical difference between a conflict- and poverty-ridden Lebanon, or peaceful Lebanon with more opportunities for everyone.

Owing to our human rights mandate and our position of privilege at **The Hague Peace Projects**, we have the duty to actively get involved in the support and the protection of human rights in Beirut.

BACKGROUND ON THE HPP

The **Hague Peace Projects** (HPP) is a peace organisation based in The Hague, The Netherlands.

It was established in 2014 by four human rights defenders and conflict resolution professionals. **We believe that conflicts can be resolved through dialogue**, as opposed to violent or aggressive means of dispute resolution.



We welcome people into our team who have personally lived through circumstances of violence and oppression: **our human rights defenders**, who often act as project leaders. Our staff consists mainly of young professionals from all over the world with a broad expertise in conflict prevention, peace building and human rights.

In order to achieve our goals, we establish and manage a number of activities including public events, debates, conferences and dialogue meetings- but also new and innovative projects such as **The Hague X Beirut**.

You can help us by **cross-posting**; telling us what you think about the project, so that we can use it as an **endorsement quote**; spreading the word about our Open Call for Artists, our Open Call for Activists, and our upcoming event - or by supporting our upfront costs with a donation!

You can follow us on:

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-hague-peace-projects/>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/thehaguepeaceprojects/>

and our **Website** <https://thehaguepeace.org/>

Email us at:

info@thehaguepeace.org for general questions on the HPP

or thehaguepeace.pr@gmail.com for questions regarding The Hague X Beirut

Yours,

The team of The Hague X Beirut