

Painful Quarantine

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Pain comes in all forms, the small twinge, a bit of soreness, the random pain, the normal pains we live with every day. Then there is the kind of pain you cannot ignore, a level of pain so great that it blocks out everything else, makes the rest of the world fade away until all we can think about is the pain. On the other hand, how we manage our pain is up to us, we anesthetize, ride it out, embrace it, ignore it, and for some of us, the best way to manage pain is to just push through it. There are many scales to measure the intensity and the level of pain, but at the same time, we all know that pain is relative...YES; pain is relative from one person to other and especially from one child to other!



Personally, one of the most difficult experiences one can have is seeing a child in pain. I am not talking only about physical pain; as you all know, our boarders come from different places and carry in their hearts various painful stories, they also have their ways to manage their own pain, with our help, but so many times, we see the scars and feel the leftovers of their pain in their eyes and behaviors... “Are we really going to Beirut? But they said there are many cases of Corona in

Beirut and no one is infected in Anjar, PLEASE let us stay here!” S.D. asked us several times these questions as we were explaining to our boarders that, we are obliged to close the doors of the boarding school and send them to Beirut. S.D. is 12 years old she had joined the boarding family in 2017. We could see the fear and the intensity of pain in her eyes and tears, when she asked to stay in Anjar rather than going home. She feels safe here and she needs all the care and the support provided, but unfortunately, due to decisions from the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Lebanese government no one was allowed to stay in our buildings.

One of the most important ways to fight Covid-19 is social distancing and for this reason, gatherings for more than 20 individuals in one place were banned. We tried to find ways to keep our boarders in Anjar, like restricting entrance, reducing the number of the coworkers and increasing their working hours or separating the boarders to different buildings. However, the Ministry of Social Affairs rejected our suggestions as the number of our students and coworkers exceeds all the possibilities of the lockdown and home quarantine. Moreover, we reassured to

S.D. and her friends that we will always be available to help them although we are far from them, BUT we will not leave them alone.

One and a half month passed and the doors of the boarding school are closed, the hallways and the rooms are empty...but our boarders are always in contact with us. We talk to them, give advices and guide them. We inform the parents if there are specific places distributing aids and we are writing to social centers to care for the various needs our boarders.