

creative space beirut

United Nations Global Compact Communication on Engagement 2020

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: June 11, 2018

To: June 11, 2020

Part I: Statement of continued support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that Creative Space Beirut supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (CEO). We support public accountability and transparency and have committed to report on progress this year and every two years thereafter according to the Global Compact CEO policy.

In our COE, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its principles.

Best regards,



Sarah Hermez
Co-founder and President

Part II: Description of Actions

Our mission at Creative Space Beirut is dedicated to fostering and supporting young design talent through an ecosystem of free education and work experience that facilitates equal opportunity into the design industry.

With a goal of becoming a multi-disciplinary and self-sustainable environment, Creative Space Beirut aims to expand into other creative disciplines, using free education to challenge elitist approaches in design and establish a more inclusive field.

Work on SDGs:

The key SDGs that we have worked on in the past 2 years are as follows:

SDG 4: Quality Education:

As a part of our mission, we are providing free design education to talented students who otherwise could not afford an education. We provide a full-time 3 year program in fashion design. Students are also provided with internship opportunities during their time at Creative Space Beirut and assisted in finding employment opportunities when they finish their studies. Our curriculum is comprehensive and is supported by renowned instructors that teach at prestigious international universities, such as Parsons the New School for Design in New York and the Lebanese American University, who come and teach at our school.

Our students come from diverse backgrounds and different cultures. We have Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian and Armenian students from all over Lebanon. Most of our students come from families earning between 0 and 14 million LBP per year which is below the poverty line.

In addition to our full time school program, we also launched an evening workshop program to help train interested pupils in the field of fashion design and expand their skills. These courses could allow the general public gain the necessary skills in various aspects of fashion design and allow them to further pursue their interests and gain the fundamental tools to work within the field.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:

By providing equal opportunities, one of our values, to all underprivileged youth who are talented in design but cannot afford an education due to increasingly expensive private institutions, we have contributed to reducing inequalities in the elitist design industry. Students and alumni are also

provided support during their time at Creative Space Beirut and by facilitating networking and career opportunities to help them enter into the fashion industry to allow them to become independent. Some students are even hired back into the organization or offered collaboration opportunities with the organization to expand their portfolio.

Through our program, we have been able to achieve an alumni employment rate of 80% of alumni students finding work within the field.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption:

Creative Space Beirut receives annual fabric donations from renowned international designers that offer their discarded fabrics. The fabrics are used by students for classes and in order to create their final collections. These donated fabrics would otherwise be thrown into landfills. We aim to only work with donated or deadstock fabric for our school to help alleviate some of the detrimental effects of the textile industry on the environment.

We also practice regular recycling at our space, recycling paper, tin, plastic, and fabric. We work with Recycle Beirut to pick up our recycling.

SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals:

We have a partnership with a social enterprise called Second st SARL, which shares the same management team in order to cover costs such as salaries, rent and utilities, that Creative Space Beirut would otherwise have to incur.

Part III: Measurement of Outcomes

So far, we have had a combined 10 students enrolled in the 2018 academic year, 17 students in 2019, and 17 in the 2020 academic year. We have had 11 alumni graduate since 2016 and have completed the 3 year program.

For our evening workshops, we have had a total of 47 attendees for a total of 6 workshops.

Most alumni are successfully working in the fashion industry. Our students are offered 1 collaboration opportunity per year to design a collection for a local boutique and they are compensated for the project. Students are also required to complete a 2 month internship every year until their graduation in order to gain tangible work experience.

We receive an average of 100 fabric rolls per year which would otherwise be thrown into landfills. We pride ourselves on only using deadstock fabrics for our school production and projects to try and minimize the environmental waste that occurs from the fashion and textile industries.