As a woman I've been told to never walk alone after sunset. I was told it was the clothing I wear that makes guys illicit derogatory mannerisms; that I lured guys in with my charisma so I didn't have a right to speak out about the way they acted around me. I was told I had to change if I wanted things to be different. By taking up this position, I want to be the change. I want to show others that they don't need to change themselves, but change societal behaviors/norms to change their circumstances. I want to speak up for the men and women who feel that their voices cannot be heard. I want to stand up and help them understand that it's not their fault. They should be able to dress and act however they choose. They should be confident in who they are and not scared. They don't need to change. I want to be a voice heard, listened to, and respected in the battle to stigmatize the notion of victim blaming. I want to create a support system for those impacted by sexual assault. I aspire to foster a sense of equality and fairness to engender a sense of respect in order to reduce the growing number of sexual assault cases.

Yes. One of my best friends is a victim of sexual assault. After it happened her first instinct was to call me. At the time she didn't know what to do and didn't want me to say anything. I was heartbroken by the pain she felt and wanted to tell her parents and the police to press charges. After giving her time to deal with her pain, we talked to friends and family, then filed a sexual assault report. The memory still haunts her, as it does me, knowing I could have easily been in her place. Her loss shattered me, and keeping her experience silent was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. Ultimately I understood that it was her story and experience to share and not mine.

I was a part of my high school Model United Nations teams. As part of the competition we would be divided in groups to argue a certain position for an assigned country. I remember one year I was to discuss mental illness in India. After hours of research I learned the devastating effects of the recreational poisonous drugs made on the streets of a third world country. This cause is very dear to my heart, as I was born in India and still consider it home. I wanted to campaign for change, however inconsequential doing so in a setting as such may be. During the caucus, we had to distribute money and a myriad of other delegates has not shared the same fervor I had for my position. I was astonished and frustrated, arguing my case to no avail. In the end, I came to understand the point of the Model UN was to help as many countries as possible with the most immediate problems with only the limited resources available. I had to think of the bigger picture, and find a solution that was beneficial to all for the countries for all the positions they presented aside from my own feelings.