



Dania Al-Itani is 22 years old and graduated from California State University, Long Beach with *magna cum laude* honors. She will start her career as a pediatric nurse at a Magnet hospital in Long Beach, California in April 2019. Dania is in pursuit of excellence in nursing practice through advocacy, leadership, and education to make a difference in health worldwide. She is excited to support Sigma's great strides in world health advancement and nursing excellence as a United Nations Youth Representative.

During her undergraduate studies, Dania demonstrated a commitment to international community service. She volunteered with Syrian American Medical Society to help provide medical care and treatment to refugees in camps in countries like Lebanon, Greece, Jordan, and Mexico. In addition, Dania has taught English in Thailand and Turkey and participated in a relief trip to Haiti. These voluntary service opportunities helped reinforce what role she wants to take on in the world as a nurse, mentor, and most importantly as a human being.

In June 2018, Dania started a nonprofit organization called Shifaa Foundation, whose mission is to address the immediate needs of the most vulnerable people around the world. For example, the Shifaa team has distributed food baskets, donated medical supplies, built a water well, and provided winter relief packages. Since launching, Shifaa has impacted communities in eight countries. By seeking to resolve humanitarian issues worldwide, they are trying to help people whose lives were shattered by disaster and conflict live in safety and with dignity. In addition, Dania is on the board of volunteers for Zam Zam, which is a humanitarian organization devoted to eradicating poverty by providing clean water, access to quality education, and more equitable opportunities to villages across the globe. She had a direct role in facilitating implementation in Zam Zam's fifth operating country, Malawi. In the future, Dania would like to become a family nurse practitioner to continue helping disadvantaged communities.

Volunteering in developing countries and refugee camps has helped her embrace her moral responsibility to act for the benefit of all societies, not just her own. Dania, who strives to represent the mission, vision, and values of Sigma, is an engaged member of the Iota Eta Chapter. She takes pride in being part of an international community that has the momentum to exert influence to advance nursing and global health. As a United Nations representative, she is excited to continue working toward enhancing the wellness and health of the world's people.