

Week 4

Change is defined as the process of making or becoming different. Change was bolded and italicized into my mind this week. There is always progress to be made; progress that leads to a better world and a better me. After multiple events this week the idea of change was the headline. There is so much to be done in a world full of corruption and cruelty.

This week I had the opportunity to be involved in two meetings with one of the legislative staff members. The meetings involved non-governmental organizations that had an emphasis on human rights. I had the honor of meeting asylum seekers, they told stories of violence, fear, and survival. I was appalled by the global conflict, human rights abuse, and my lack of education on these specific areas. The two countries I was educated on don't make the daily news headlines, the voices and cries of the people are unheard. I knew at this moment that these people are the super heroes of the world. They have the power of endless perseverance. I found motivation and inspiration from this and many other outlets throughout the week.

CHCI has an organization that works with Latinx high schooler called R2L NextGen. The high schoolers are brought to DC and follow a great program. I was offered to be a chaperon for a day while they did Capitol Hill visits. The group I was assigned to were from Atlanta. These teenagers were amazing. They asked me questions like "how did you get where you are?" and just for general advice. I was able to learn more about their passions and aspirations. Little did they know I was learning more from them. They gave me so much hope for our future generations. Also, the group and I were able to meet personally with the honorable and iconic Rep. John Lewis. That was beyond an amazing experience. He was so humble, kind, and insightful. I was in the presence of a historic figure, who never stops fighting for our rights as human beings. This conversation ignited my fire to utilize my right to peacefully protest; so that's what I did.

The chants of the people were heard all throughout the streets of Washington DC. **THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE** or **EDUCATION NOT DEPORTATION** or **PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DIVIDED**. My voice projected, I wanted to be heard. I want the world to know of the injustices happening at the border, simply a loss of humanity. I walked those streets in a rally, but not alone, thousands of people following. I am a proud Latina with a voice that can be put to use. I want my words to have purpose; this is my purpose. Change is the process of becoming different, DC is my grand change. Change that brings fearlessness and dreams of a better America.

