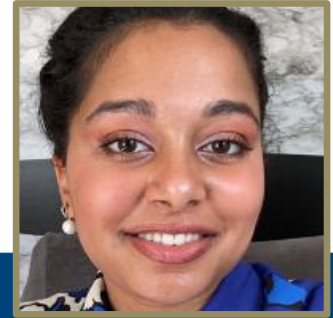


# Anisa Rahaman

Gilman Program Alumni Ambassador  
Jordan, 2016



***“Create opportunities for yourself, don’t be afraid to network or ask questions, and be comfortable in making mistakes and being culturally different.”***

Anisa studied abroad as a Gilman Scholar during the summer of 2016 in Jordan. She interned with a Syrian and Iraqi refugee center in Amman, Jordan, and has continued to support unaccompanied minors at the Southern U.S. border and Afghan refugees seeking asylum in the United States. Anisa’s Follow-on Service Project was to write a [graphic novel](#) detailing her experience studying abroad. Five years later, she revisited her passion for creative arts and started her first business, VanRah Design, a fashion art company.

Studying abroad was Anisa’s first time traveling outside of the United States. Her perspective on safety, education, and prioritizing her career goals was greatly impacted by the experience. Studying abroad as one of five Black students in her program was challenging, but having that experience reinforced for her the importance of setting tangible goals and celebrating little wins along the way.

She has continued to work in international development through her role at the Peace Corps. The Arabic language skills she gained in Jordan were invaluable when she volunteered to assist Middle Eastern refugees seeking asylum in the United States in 2021. Anisa also volunteers on Peace Corps’ after-hours international crisis hotline.

- Earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, Peace Studies, and Conflict Resolution from American University.
- Founder and CEO of VanRah Design Fashion Art House
- Product Manager at the Peace Corps

