



Hardships as an Opportunity

Rona Ramon was an activist – she founded the "Ramon foundation" that became an Israel-wide education network, supported the founding of the "International Ramon Conference" that brings to Israel astronaut from all over the world for educational activities.

At first glance, it would seem that Rona's massive legacy happened despite her life circumstances: her husband, Ilan Ramon, died in a space shuttle crash in 2003, while her son Assaf died in a plane crash accident in 2009. Two heartbreaking blows that could break the spirit.

However, when examining Rona's character, we see that those were the hardships that motivated her and gave her a purpose. During the beacon lighting ceremony in 2018 she said:

"I, Rona Ramon, the daughter of Gila and Israel, who were amongst the first youth immigrants from Turkey, light this beacon in honor of my loved ones, Ilan and Assaf, who are a candle and beacon for the fulfillment of my vision. In honor of the Air Force, who protect us from above ; In honor of my children and all the young people who grow up believing in humanity, the love of the state and hope for peace; And in honor of the bereaved families, in honor of those who persist on doing and creating despite the darkness."

Rona did not deny the difficulties and obstacles in her life. She met them, got acquainted with them and used them as motivation to create positive change in the world. The tragedies in her life were used as inspiration to create the activities that have influenced and changed the lives of thousands of youth.

Why do you think Rona chose to keep on with her life and not to succumb to the sadness and hardships?

How has Rona managed to change the effect of her personal tragedies from an obstacle to a force for positive change?

Are the hardships in your life holding you back? How can you use your hardships as a force of good?
