

## **Puerto Rico and the Power of Protest**

*Aliana was one of the young leaders of the protests in Puerto Rico last summer. Corruption in the government and a leaked private group chat led the citizens of Puerto Rico to demand the resignation of their president. More than 500,000 people protested for over two weeks. We talk with Aliana about her experience and the power of protests!*

### **Questions for Extended Dialogue:**

- Aliana spoke at length about the sense of community and solidarity that existed among the protestors. What are some examples? What role did community play in the success of the protests?
- The vast majority of protestors were under the age of 30. To what might you attribute this?
- Aliana mentioned that there was no real leader or political group behind the protests? How was this possible?
- How did social media play a role in these minimally organized protests?
- Do you believe that protest is an effective way of making change?
- Puerto Rico is not alone in using protest as a tool for change. Chile, Spain, Ecuador, and Lebanon have all erupted in protests as a means of demanding government action. Take some time to research a recent protest.
  - Describe the contextual factors that led to the protests.
  - What role did young people play in social change efforts?
  - To what extent was protesting effective or ineffective?
  - In what ways were the protests similar to those in Puerto Rico?
- Beyond protesting, what other ways can citizens motivate social change?