

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

## **A World Where Dreams Come True**

(Original)

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Dear self,

I remember how you have always been in the habit of drawing a bright future in your dreams and wakefulness. Today, and after ten years since you last sat alone in the garden, so overwhelmed by the uncertainty and fear overshadowing your thoughts about the future, I take the pen to assure you, that everything you imagined has come true. Today, like every other day in the last twenty years, I am proud of you, proud that you have never given up on your dreams no matter how uphill they seemed to be.

As I sit here in my room, overcome with joy, I cannot but dwell over the serenity that is filling the air. The world outside my window is blooming, the birds are fluttering in merriment around olive trees, and every flower in the garden is welcoming the first rays of the sun with infinite delight. I have forgotten the weariness that comes with jetlag. You might now be wondering what jetlag? But dear me, I forgot to tell you that yesterday I was in a conference in the headquarters of the United Nations, where I was appointed as an ambassador of gender equality. Yes, your dream has come true!

I can freshly recall all the beaming faces, that became brighter in the midst of applause which followed the speech, declaring the huge success of the 2030 SDG. The voice of every member of the UN keeps reiterating in my head and sends Goosebumps down my whole frame.

“We have the power to change ourselves and change the world around us.” Said the ambassador of peace, after announcing that after years of struggle and bloodshed, civil wars have ceased, and people now are all living peacefully with each other, and working together for the wellbeing and prosperity of their countries.

“The earth witnesses the glory of our joined efforts to end the exploitation of our sole source of life. Together, we have helped to stop climate change, and now, we are grateful

for this beautiful earth. We are blessed with a miracle!" said the UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador.

Indeed, the environment has been thriving ever since companies all over the world started reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Now, we are living in harmony with nature. More sideroads are built in every country for bicycles, and trees are planted everywhere along the streets of cities. As for our village, it is as green and beautiful as it has ever been.

My journey, started in my beloved hometown. A small village where women were almost extinct in the streets. I remember how often you stood at the window, wondering why men dominated the public sphere? And it took you but one second to look around you, to realize that you could not go out unveiled or whenever you wanted, your sisters, and mother, they all couldn't just go outside and walk around, without the feeling of being oppressed, weighing down heavily upon your chest, as the male gaze follows every step you tread, and devours every inch of your body.

I am now proud to say that I can go out in my village, chin uplifted high, as I make my way to my second home: "Rural Intellectual Women". Together with other passionate women, I have founded this association to raise the awareness of illiterate women in my village. When I started this project, my aim was to target only mothers, since they have the ability to bring up their sons and daughters equally, by teaching them to respect each other and to value education.

Now, more and more women are joining, to learn about their rights and cultivate their knowledge in matters that would help them start their own businesses. I can see more women in the streets, and that makes my heart warm, it makes me feel extremely happy to know that the efforts we have put into transforming our society have succeeded at last.

Stand strong and never give up on your dreams! For no matter how far-fetched they seem, as long as you believe in yourself, nothing will stop you from making this world a better place.