

2022 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

SAVE LITTLE SOULS

(Original)

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Alena, 3-year-old girl from little village not far away from Moscow, got into her uncle car to pick up her favourite flowers.

Nikolai, 15-year-old boy from Saint Petersburg came in the garage of his neighbour who had been living next door for 10 years.

Helen, 8-year-old girl from Voronezh, went on a picnic with her father's best friend.

Those children are from different places, they are not peers, they do not know each other. However, they have something in common. Something terrible, something evil. Those girls and boys never came home. They were kidnapped, raped and killed by people they considered "close".

Most people associate children with joy, happiness, sincerity and nonchalance. But there are those evil individuals who see children as prey. Those wicked beasts keep up appearance of amiability and care with children. They easily get children to trust them.

Unfortunately, it is an ugly truth of modern society. There are two options for parents all over the world: keep turning a blind eye to the problem and believe such terrible things will never happen to their own children or make a difference, raising awareness and changing the very basics in bringing up the youth.

I work with the youngsters and I want to live in society where all children and teenagers are safe. I have nieces and cousins who are absolutely adorable little creatures with their dreams and ambitions. I would be devastated if something bad happened to them.

I am fed up with the news about another child kidnapped and killed. Such news seems to reverberate the country at first but then people forget about it. They tend to erase the horrible images and prefer blissful ignorance. However, their inaction is making the world a

more dangerous place to live in.

I will do my best to raise the awareness about children in danger. I want to change the current principles of upbringing which inevitably cause violent death of children.

First of all, children must know that neighbours, parents' friends and colleagues and even extended family are not close people and it is absolutely prohibited to go anywhere with them without parents' agreement.

In our society children must unquestionably obey adults not to be considered naughty. Children must not shout, express their discontent or anger on public. They are taught that any emotional breakdown is shameful and children restrain not only anger, but also fear and panic. When an adult touches a child or asks naïve little angels to follow them, there is every likelihood that a young person will obey the man despite any suspicions or subconscious doubts.

I would like to live in different society, where children can easily shout "NO!", ask for help, burst into tears and screams when they feel danger. Children must be taught not to be afraid or ashamed to fight for freedom if a stranger (or even an adult friend) does something wrong.

I dream about a society where all the citizens are vigilant and not ignorant about obvious things: when they see some suspicious behaviour of a man with a child, it is better to come over and ask the little one whether they are ok. There is a chance the man is their father or brother but better to be safe than sorry.

I will be a mother one day so I would like to live in a different environment. I want to be 100 % sure my children are safe in the streets. I know that I am responsible for their safety too. I will get them into the habit of letting me know their plans, whereabouts and the routes to school or friends. It would be great to live in a society where accompany and supporting child is not prejudiced. There is no "too old child" for genuine care and protection and these principles must be engraved in minds of modern people.

My greatest value is the safe and happy children all over the world. I do want them never come across the evil adults but the society should be always on the lookout.