2023 International Essay Contest for Young People
[Children's Category – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize]

## **NO HORRORS**

(Original)

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A peaceful world is a world without the horrors of violence, corruption or danger. Where I don't hear gunshots or stories of people dying including kids my age.

Even though we live on the topmost floor, I always like to sleep with my windows closed because I am scared of robbers or kidnappers. I usually hear strange sounds outside and wonder if they are gunshots, firecrackers or our transformer blowing up. My mum would always scold me to leave the windows open for ventilation and assure me that nothing would happen. Well, nothing ever happened until that evening in May this year. My mum, brothers and I had just gotten home some minutes earlier when we heard a loud noise. It was scary but we could not tell if it was one of those usual noises or something else. My mum looked out the window but she didn't see anything. Next, we heard a woman screaming and my mum ran out saying "maybe that woman is being assaulted, I have to make sure she is alright". My mum was out for so long and when she finally came in, she told us the woman was robbed at gunpoint. Her car, phones, keys were taken and her baby was almost taken too. Mummy helped her hold her baby because she was shaken and she with other neighbors tried to help in any way they could to recover what was stolen.

That woman and her baby could have been us seeing as we came in just a few minutes earlier. It felt like a horror movie but unlike the horror movies where there is no safe place, my mum became a safe place for that lady. She found solace and peace in my mum's arms because my mum chose to help someone in need rather than ignore. She found peace because my mum and others chose to be kind.

The song 'We Are the World' by Michael Jackson says "We are the ones who'll make a brighter day so let's start giving". I always thought giving in that song was just about donating money but I now understand it actually represents giving love because you cannot

give when you hate. I now know that love is really all we need. This is because from love comes kindness, hope, understanding, compassion, patience, fairness, joy, harmony and peace.

Each person has a role to play especially us the young since we are in charge of the future, we have to start making it right. So this is me calling on everyone today to fill the world with love. This is because in a world filled with love, there can be no horrors because the next person can be your safe place. We can also be the safe place of others just by checking if the next person is okay. No more ignoring others in school because they are not my friends. No more minding my business when I see a schoolmate being bullied. No more greeting only my friends in school. No more hoarding my pens because I want to have extra even when I know my classmate needs one. This is me choosing to be kind when I know someone is being mean. This is me cheering my classmates when they are answering a question even though they are not getting it right. This is me correcting my friend when I see them being mean. This is me lending a helping hand when someone needs it. I want to create my peaceful future, a brighter world and I know it starts with me.

There would always be bad people who want to promote violence, corruption and danger but with plenty of love and all its fruits, the good would always win. Maybe those people are bad because they have never received love. Just remember that our loving words and actions can make a lot of positive changes in creating our peaceful future. A future with no horrors.