Shaping A Peaceful Future - Unity in Diversity
(Original)

Chit Khone Cho Thar
(Age 15, Myanmar)
Teacher Su International School, Magway

Frankly, I haven't got the finest idea of how a peaceful world would look like. Of course, in a peaceful world; people will be living in harmony without any violence nor racism. Most importantly, no one would ever heard of cities blazing with fire or aircrafts buzzing around the residential areas. However, it is hard for me to visualize that kind of nonviolent society since I've been experiencing the side effects of civil war for over two years. Plus, I even doubted about being able to live in a harmonious world.

Will we be able to create a peaceful future? Even if we could, how long will it last? Those are the questions that always come into my mind whenever I think of this issue.

Realistically thinking, it seems almost impossible for a whole planet to be peaceful. In some parts of the world, people might be blissful and content whereas in another corner of the world, there would still be discriminations and wars. For a few years, I used to believe it's just how the world works.

No matter how much I'm doubtful that we, youngsters could build a harmonious society together, there is also a tiny spark within me. A spark that makes me believe one day, all humankinds would embrace each other's diversity and live happily ever after. And last year was the time that spark started to grow inside me.

There was a girl in my class I was not quite familiar with. Although we sat next to each other, we had never talked over five words a day. We were more like strangers than classmates to each other.

One morning, I arrived at school early. As I walked across the corridor, I saw her with a

bunch of students from another class. They were mocking her appearance and urging her to take off her hijab. Being a Muslim girl, she was always wearing hijab that no one knew what her hair under the hijab look like. She was on the verge of tears and still refusing with all the strengths she got. Since I feel bad just by watching the scene, I grabbed her wrist and took her along to the class without saying anything.

"I thought you don't like me."

Although her voice was so soft that it was almost like a whisper, I could still hear it. I was not sure whether I just nodded or shook my head but she seemed to understand me. After having a casual conversation for about ten minutes, I felt connected to her and immediately regretted not being nice to her before.

At that moment I knew I was in peace. It was the feeling of calmness mixed with empathy. Then, I came to realize that peace is within us all the time. We just have to accept diversity and see the world through the harmonious eyes.

Once we become peaceful, people around us would naturally get peaceful too. Yes, inner peace is contagious. Still, it would take much longer time for the whole world to be peaceful. In this case, the role of Generation Z plays a huge part. To realize a better future, it is time for youth from all over the world to cooperate together. For instance, we can create websites in which we educate people about the negative effects of wars, racism and bloodshed. Furthermore, we could reach out to refugees and victims of calamities by either donating or fundraising.

By promoting our donation pages via social media, the news would spread like wildfire. In consequence, the whole world could hear our voice and will finally take a part in promoting a harmonious world. As you see, this is the power youngsters hold.

After all, isn't this twenty-first century where we can invent modern things and have solutions for every problems? Then, why can't we build a peaceful and nonviolent future? We might have different cultures and different backgrounds but at least, we have the same heart. Hence, I believe that each and everyone has the ability to change the world we are living in. And those individuals uniting together, we will make it happen; a peaceful world.