

Peace is ACTION

(Original)

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From the 24th of February in 2022 every Ukrainian felt how it is to be living through the war. When I read the passages in the History book about WWII, it seemed to me so distant and so mysterious in a way. I was always questioning myself – how people survived, how they fought, how civilians managed to live for so many years of atrocities...

But now I live in this war – 1 year and 3 months. I am from Mykolaiv, the city which was bombarded every night for 9 months. At present we, civilians, distinguish sounds of rockets, we started being indulged in politics, military history and we learnt what solidarity is.

And what I understand is that silence cannot make things better. Being in the country with an ongoing war conflict, I want to say that peace is ACTION. It is not just about the battlefield. We should promote peace, cooperate with people from other countries to tell them the truth, be heard and feel that we are protected. Here are some lessons that I learnt from the beginning of the war and firmly believe that the youth can make the difference.

It is crucial to talk. When you are the witness of war, it can break you, cause you pain but you are the source of truth. Oral history, for example, can preserve your memory, share your knowledge and show what you felt. There are so many projects that can bring together the younger generation from different countries and therefore, we will build trust, awareness and commitment. To give an interview for a project or to have a personal blog – these are the ways to show the reality. Your reality.

It is crucial to help. In times of crisis, volunteering appeared the unity force of the nation. You can help your neighbour or a refugee, you can donate money or clothes. You can even organize a fair or an auction that makes it possible to gather some help. I know the children who sold their pictures, beadings and woodcraft so to raise some money for the army. Isn't

it brave?

It is crucial to unite. A lot of people suffered from being the victim of war and consequently, they cannot share this everywhere. It is a wound that cannot be discovered just by a passerby. Though it is possible that these people will be willing to talk with their soulmates who experienced the similar situation. Nowadays this therapy of talking can release the stress, develop a good rapport and sense of community. It is in our power to establish a community of trust, which is one of the ways to promote peace between its members and inside each of us. I reckon that peace takes its roots deep down from the heart.

When I picture peace in my head, I want to be safe both physically and emotionally. Peace is a world where there is no threat to your health, where you are a respected member of the society and where there is the undisputed border. These days I understand the word «border» as a line that has been agreed to divide one country from another and as the space for your personality that is tolerated by others.

The 21st century gives possibilities for everyone. Nowadays younger generation has a chance to participate in the conferences, take part in different projects, share the ideas of peace and unity and they can spread their interest in foreign policy as well as their own history. There is nothing more important than to live in peace, enjoy your life, be close to loved ones, meet your friends and be sure of the next day. There is nothing worse than to experience fear every day, not be able to go outside, not be living your life or even lose it. In times of uncertainty, it is high time to take some steps. It is time to build connections between nations and be the part of the community. And moreover, it is time to find love and care in our souls to help the people near you. In the house near you. In the city near you. In the country near you.