

2023 International Essay Contest for Young People

【Youth Category – Honorable Mention】

Positive Youths Promote Peace

(Original)

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I make a mental image of a human chain. Clad in a vibrant traditional dress, I see a young North Korean defector turned activist who is disclosing the brutal realities of the totalitarians of her nation. Next to her stands another young girl from the beautiful Swat Valley of Pakistan, whose advocacy of girls' education led her from getting shot by the Taliban to giving one of the most powerful speeches ever in the history of the United Nations. Right beside her stands someone whose climate crisis advocacy has challenged world leaders to rethink their leadership.

This human chain of seemingly soft youths is not just a human chain but a chain of positivity, resilience, courage and ambition. It is the chain of hope for a peaceful future formed by youths like Malala, Yeonmi, Greta and many more. The strong voices and actions of such youths imply world peace that will eventually arrive in different sectors in the future.

We are surrounded by the biggest global crises, including climate change, deadly infections, mental health difficulties, terrorism and many others, making us the saddest generation ever. Having said that, contemporary youngsters are fortunate to have grown up in a technological age where ideas can be conveniently disseminated to a wider audience. The most powerful and impactful influence and change-making weapon today is our ideas and opinions and the best part is that the majority of us do not hesitate to voice them through our own personal crafts and skills. Akin to how lotus blooms in the mud, youths today can foresee the possibilities and opportunities in this critical world situation and are set to become future leaders of tomorrow.

Youths have the strongest physical abilities yet they choose the most peaceful approach for surmounting the world's problems for a peaceful tomorrow. Young people today are aware

and convinced of the fact that rage only leads to riots and not to resolutions. We understand that anything as simple as writing, a song, a poem or an act holds the power to change the world. The contribution of youth to community development programs, law-making, volunteering, etc. is leading to bringing positive changes in the world. We need more of these platforms and we should not be bounded by limitations because of our age.

Youths are the pillars of today's development and the strongest foundation of future possibilities. We have the zeal to bring unprecedented solutions. Our minds are flexible, have the eagerness to learn, re-learn, unlearn and do not have resistance to change. We have great respect for the works that our previous generations have achieved and simultaneously, have the feeling of responsibility towards our upcoming generation. We are aware that we have not only inherited the world from our ancestors but have also borrowed them from our forthcoming generations and we must save it for them.

There are numerous epitomes of how a single youth can be driven for change. When such youths come together, they inspire other youths and the synergies that get created through the combination of their ideas, opinions and actions have the power to even move the earth. The youths of the 21st century should comprehend that the world is their home and they should think globally and act locally with the resources that they have.

Young people have become more acknowledgeable of diversity and inclusion than ever due to education. The cultural exchange programs, sharing of dialogues and discussions, campaigns, etc. have led us to think about social aspects from a different perspective. We go beyond genders, nations, languages, cultures, borders and any other demographics today.

Many global campaigns like Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have youths as their major contributors. Our needs arise from deficiencies and the major deficiency of today's world is an uncertain future that holds the essence of peace and our need is to find a concrete solution to those world problems. We can identify and implement those solutions through the different roles that youth can undertake. Youths can be successful initiators, leaders and peacemakers. All they need is support, motivation, and belief in their advocacy from their surroundings.

Hence, let's empower and support youths, for a better world and for a peaceful future.