

PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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The Search for peace on earth is almost as old as human history. Most of the world's great religions preach the wickedness of war and hold forth the vision of peace and harmony among people. Since the days of ancient Egypt and Greece practical efforts to set up organizations to guard the peace have been made in almost all parts of the world and in almost every century. They have been especially common in the 19th and 20th century.

In Western Europe, ideas for plans to promote peace date back many hundreds of years. In the 1300's, Pierre Dubois, a French jurist and politician, and Dante Alighieri, the famous Florentine poet, made definite suggestions for the establishment of universal peace. Similar plans were put up by Desiderius Erasmus, a 16th century Dutch scholar. In 1625, Hugo Grotius, a Dutch jurist, introduced the idea of international law in his book *De jure belli et pacis* (The law of war and peace). In the early 1600's Henry IV of France and his minister, Duc de Sully, proposed the so called Great Design. This was a federation of Christian nations that aimed at enforcing the peace. Other plans were suggested by Pennsylvania's founder, William Penn, in the late 1600's and by the German philosopher Immanuel Kant a century later.

Organized peace movements became significant only in the early years of the 19th century. In 1815, three peace societies were formed in the United States—in New York, Massachusetts society, wrote a book entitled *A Solemn Review of the custom of war*. He was the first to urge co-operation among the peace societies.

In 1816 the British Society for the Promotion of Permanent and Universal Peace was established in London. Within the next five years, other societies were founded in France and Switzerland. In 1828 the American peace groups were united by William Ladd, one of the true pioneers of the peace movement. The united movement was given the name of the American Peace society. Ladd's plan for a congress and a court of nations was approved by the society. The plan was backed by the London Peace Society in England.

Between 1843 and 1851, peace societies in various Western countries sponsored five international peace conferences. A Universal Peace Congress was held in Brussels, Belgium, in 1848 to bring about "the entire abolishment of war." It supported the suggestion of an American, Elihu Burritt, for the creation of a congress of nations to prepare a code of international law. At a similar congress in Paris in 1849, the famous French writer Victor Hugo urged the formation of a United States of Europe. After the fifth congress, held in London in 1851, few efforts toward peace were made for 20 years.

Three wars—the Crimean War (1854-55), the United States Civil War (1861-65), and the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71)—took place during these years.

Between the late 1800's and World War I, peace efforts were revived. They became more practical and more effective than earlier movements had been. Official and unofficial associations gave powerful support to the three basic aims of the peace movement: disarmament, use of peaceful methods (especially arbitration) of settling disputes between nations, and development of international law.

War begins in the minds of Men. It is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed. The ignorance of each others ways and lives has been a common cause of war. Throughout the history of mankind suspicious and mistrust between the people of the world through which their differences have all too often resulted into war. The great and terrible conflicts which until now has not yet ended possibly because of the denial of the democratic principles of the dignity, equality and mutual respect of men, who are propagating in their place through ignorance and prejudice. The doctrine of the inequality of men and race for a long lasting peace. Another breaking barriers are the wide diffusion of culture and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man that contribute a sacred duty which supposedly all nations must fulfill to achieve mutual concern. Peace which is based exclusively with the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace that could secure unanimous positive response but rather, lasting and sincere support of the people and that peace must therefore be established upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind.

One of the Core Values exposed by the democratic societies is the freedom of every citizen to choose. Individual choice in such societies is manifested in many different dimensions: political, social, economic, cultural and religious.

Peace societies were especially numerous in the United States. Many Americans were prominently connected with peace movements. Many of the gifts of Scottish-born Andrew Carnegie, the famous American industrialist and philanthropist went to further the cause of peace.

Two outstanding peace worker were Jane Addams, the founder of Hull House in Chicago, and Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University for international peace.

In the period between the two world wars, many of the peace movements supported the League of Nations.

The 21st century offers so many choices. Manifested through votes really matters. Global research is proving that people power can be interrogated when peace is needed. Enough citizens from different walks of life shared a mutual opinion and are willing to stand their ground, organize, work within the law, and present evidence to back up that opinion or choice, the desired change that can take place without resorting to

violent, terroristic and other illegal means that negate human rights. Like the case of the late President Corazon Aquino, there was people power, where position as President was assumed through the strength of the people in a peaceful manner. Basic human rights allow people to be different. After all no two individuals are identical. The difference is what makes life so interesting, innovative solutions to problems possible and a nations social capital rich and powerful. Where people are the same as in how laws protect them and how they need to behave according to laws. As a person ages, learn new, makes choices and deepens an understanding of life, that person will change. Each person is a set of ever changing multiple intelligent, selves and peace loving according to law. The freedom to choose allows a person to develop his potential to the fullest; the exercise of this freedom faster's creativity, innovation and progress. Peace sincere otherwise exists in all parts of the world. They vary greatly in nature, size influence. They maybe official or unofficial, some are limited in their aims others have almost unlimited goals such as general and complete disarmament world government, or the complete abolition of war. All have new dimensions to the search for peace in the nuclear age.

Human rights are the fundamental principles of mankind. It is the right to be free from governmental violations of the integrity of the person. The right to the fulfillment of such vital needs as food, shelter, health care and education, and the rights to enjoy civil and political liberties. It preserves and promotes quality of life, just empowered and peace. These are the rights which deserve as human being and are necessary to live as a human being. Human rights have three categories.

- 1) The right to be free from government violations of the integrity of the person to include: torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, arbitrary arrest or imprisonment, Denial of fair public trial, invasion of home.
- 2) The rights to the fulfillment of such vital needs as foods, shelter, health care and education to include: freedom of thoughts of religious and assembly , freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of movement both within and outside of one's own country, freedom to take part in one's government. The constitution is to protect and promote human rights mainly through directives principles. The enumeration and description of the fundamental rights guaranteed, and the creation of institution like the courts, ombudsman, and commission on human rights. Article XIII of the 1987 constitution commission on human rights.

Examples of these rights are the Rolando Benayo case was prisoner was tortured and no voice was heard from the prisoner. The maguindanao massacre where several innocent people were victims of killings and mistrust. In Jeddah men and women were detained depriving them their rights. They were detained in detention center were foods served was inevitable, and shelter was uncomfortable. All this was against human rights.