

PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Karen Joy T. Pangasian
Universidad de Zamboanga-IPIL
Zamboanga City, Philippines

“If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.”

People in the democratic state are given all the privileges and freedom to do whatever things they want to do. Those rights which are held by all human beings are what we called human rights. These are the rights that every human being automatically qualifies for at birth. They cannot be denied because of the color of one's skin, religion, age or other personal factors. Central to the concept of human rights is the protection of human dignity and pride. A life free of violence is our right and every individual has all the freedom to enjoy and exercise his rights. Human rights perspective is also a consciousness of the beauty of life, not just about issues related to horrible things such as torture, disappearances, or extrajudicial killings. Rights generally recognized as belonging to every individual by virtue of the fact that he or she is a human being. Human rights are rooted in the Biblical concept that all people are created in the image of God, giving them innate dignity regardless of ability or any perceived value to society.

To live harmoniously and peacefully is one of our rights as a human. To work also is our right to preserve our future and our family. When we work we develop our mental and social aspect. Accordingly, everyone has the right to work based on man's natural right to self-preservation. To preserve one's life requires one to have a right over the means with which to satisfy his basic needs for food, clothing and shelter. And since man derives his subsistence from his work, his right to preserve his life necessitates his right to work. The right of a person to work also entails his full and real rights over the fruits that proceed from his labors. The remuneration to a worker expects from doing work should be treated as his property having the rights over it and enjoying the right to dispose it in whatever he so chooses. The right of a person to his labor is deemed a property within the meaning of constitutional guarantees, and no one can deprive of his property without due process of law.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. Although ideas of right and liberty have existed for much of human history, it is unclear to what degree such concept can be described as human rights in the modern sense. Human rights are rights and freedom to which all humans are entitled. Proponent of the concept usually asserts that everyone is endowed with certain entitlements merely by reason of being human. Human rights are thus conceived in a universal list and egalitarian fashion. Such entitlements can exist as shared norms of actual human moralities, as justified moral norms or natural rights supported by strong reasons, or as legal rights either at a national level or within international law. However, there is no consensus as to the precise nature of what in particular should or should not be regarded as a human right in any of the proceeding senses, and the abstract concept of human rights has been a subject of intense philosophical debate and criticism.

Peace! Does this mean absence of physical violence? Definitely no! It is important to know that peace is not just the absence of violence or conflict but the presence will help us to analyze peace issues in an integrated way. Building or promoting peace to individuals and society is a dynamic, complex and multidimensional process, which involves changing values, beliefs and behavior, to bring about peace to individuals and society, person need to be educated to value human solidarity, mutuality and justice; and to learn the skills that enable us to renounce violence and take peace as a way of life.

Peace creates an atmosphere of freedom and universal respect, where all human rights are upheld, protected and valued, with in the context of equality between woman and man as peers and partners. If there is peace to every heart of the people, respect to human rights are present and applied. Peace recognizes and respect culture in their diversity, and at the same time seek a common understanding of what encompasses a shared vision of peace and that leaders to more just and free, more democratic, and a human world order. A genuine peace is founded on the exercise of fundamental freedoms and respect, for human rights and the dignity of human person. It cherishes and values “otherness” and promotes tolerance to a genuine and sustainable world of peace and love towards other people.

Peace must begin with each one of us. Because it is a truism that one cannot give what he does not have. Conversely, one cannot be at peace with others and the world if he/she is not at peace with himself/herself. Many people find themselves into trouble with other because of their inability to control themselves: an inability to stay calm amidst external pressure. Some people become easily confused, fretful and violent when suddenly under pressure, then wonder afterwards why the world they have a harmed others and why they cannot seem to account for their actions. Reactions of this kind maybe indicated of persons need to look inward-harmonizing thoughts motive words and actions to get in touch with the inner self where peace, strength, and truth reside. Peace from within consist of your thoughts, your feelings and pure motives and wishes.

Peace also describes a society or relationship of that operating harmoniously and without violent fracas. Peace is commonly understood as the absence of hostility or the existence of healthy or newly healed interpersonal relationship, safety in matters of social and economic welfare, the acknowledgement of equality and fairness in political relationships. In international relationships, peacetime is the absence of any war or conflict. Peace also describes as freedom from civil disorder, as the transition of the biblical terms has multiple meanings: safety, welfare, prosperity, security, fortune, friendliness. The personalized meaning is reflected in a nonviolent lifestyle, which also describes a relationship between any people characterized by respect, justice and goodwill. Inner peace or peace of mind refers to a state of being mentally and spiritually at peace, with enough knowledge and understanding to keep oneself strong in the face of discord or stress. Being at peace is considered by many to be healthy homeostasis and the opposite of being stress or anxious. Peace of mind is generally associated with bliss and happiness. Peace of mind, serenity, and calmness are description of a disposition free from the effects of stress.

Pace movement is a social movement that seeks to achieve ideas such as the ending of particular wars, minimized inter-human violence in a particular place or type of situation, often linked to the goal of achieving world peace. Means to achieve these ends usually include

advocacy of pacifism, non-violence resistance, diplomacy, boycotts, moral purchasing, supporting anti-war political candidates, demonstrations and lobbying to create legislation.

Peace and human rights development is sustained when peace is maintained. However, experience shows that development is at times hampered due to discordant events. Cases of social unrest arise from violations of human rights and commission of crimes where in most instances, women are the helpless victims. In this light, gender statistics on peace and human rights is gathered to help law enforcers and peacekeepers improve their efforts by aligning priorities in favor of women protection and encouraging women participation. The youth become effective advocates of peace and human rights. To become citizens in the liberal sense, this youth are promoting, protecting and even fighting for the rights of every human being to live in peace and with dignity. Peace entails freedom to exercise own human rights as a person. In the concept of peace human rights is valued and respect and enjoyed by individual in this world. If there is peace to everyone, there is freedom and love to the world. We can have a country a better place of living.