

## **“Peace and Human Rights”**

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Peace mean that a tranquility or a calm and a quiet state. Human Rights mean freedom, justice and equality: the rights that are considered by most societies to belong automatically to everyone. 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.

Filipinos can only enjoy the kind of life they deserve and aspire for when there is peace in the country, when human rights are respected, protected promoted and fulfilled. This takes action from everyone is every sector. Peace-building and the promotion and protection of human rights are at the heart of the aspirations of the Filipino people, yet remain among the biggest challenges for the Philippines. Without peace, we cannot have stability, freedom from fear and freedom from want. Peace is a cornerstone of progress – economic, social, individual and national growth. Peace and human rights are not only important for Filipinos, they are intertwined such that one is needed to achieve the other, and vice versa. Peace is essential for the full enjoyment, respect and protection of human rights. When there is conflict, the economy is affected, making it difficult for economic rights to be fulfilled. Social tensions lead to violations of social human rights. Political and civil rights are affected when parties to conflict decide they can commit violations such as extrajudicial killings and torture in the name of their missions. On the other hand, human rights respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment is essential to maintain and build peace. Conflicts often have root causes that are related to human rights, even if the parties do not realize it. When there is deep and systemic discrimination that deprives one or more group of society of its right to political participation, that group will often resort to armed means. Many rebellions are started and continued for causes such as poverty, lack of basic services, lack of access to political participation and decision-making, abuses of their rights or attacks on their members. When an effort is made to fully respect, protect, promote and fulfill all human rights (whether economic, social, cultural, political or civil) that effort helps build towards peace or can prevent conflict.

Government officials and public servants are obligated by law to respect human rights and to promote and fulfill them as they go about their work. With human rights comes responsibility. All of us have the responsibility to respect the human rights of everyone else. We also have the responsibility to build a society where we all can enjoy our human rights. The other principle of peace is social justice. Peace cannot be established in a society where a big class distinction exists. We can only be happy if our neighbours are not suffering from hunger.

Democracy should be redefined too. In its classical meaning, democracy means the government of the majority. But a majority who wins in free elections does not have the right to govern as it wishes. Let's not forget that most dictatorships in the world have been elected democratically, meaning by the majority of the vote of the people. Like Hitler. Therefore, winning elections does not guarantee democracy. The majority that gains power through free elections should observe the framework of democracy. Now what is the framework of democracy?

The framework of democracy is human rights law. In other words, the majority who has won power can only perform within the framework of the laws of human rights and cannot violate such laws. No majority in power can use religion as an excuse to oppress half of the population of society, in other words women. The oppression that women in Iran are suffering at the present is an example of such excuse. No majority in power should have the right to prevent freedom of speech with the excuse of ideology. In light of the above, governments do not gain their legitimacy through votes of people and voting boxes. They gain their legitimacy through votes of people and respect for human rights. Excuses for violation of human rights such as cultural relativism, religion and ideology are not acceptable. Human rights have been derived from religions and civilizations and can be applied to any civilization and cultural believe there is one word that describes the challenge. It is nonviolence. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a world-wide movement illustrating the desire for nonviolence. Everyone could participate. What could empower a movement for nonviolence? I believe it is women! Women are the oppressed in almost every society and are probably the least violent. Not in all cases. But, overall, women are socialized differently than men and usually resolve differences different than men. Therefore, if the world is attempting to resolve conflict peacefully, then women should lead the way. Women would have an advantage in achieving peace. . If women around the world joined together and united for a common cause, they would illustrate great courage and fortitude. The question is how can it get started on a global scale? I tried to find a basic common denominator, a link between all people and societies. I found the link to be the children. Therefore, a catalyst is suggested that is a representative of nonviolence. The catalyst is the caretakers of the children, women. The strategy is a "Global Strategy of Nonviolence." It is based upon people power. It states that the time has come for Nonviolence to be the focal point of all societies and countries. I would like to formally invite you to join a "Call to Women, a World-wide Unity Campaign." A "Call to Women" does not exclude men. Someone has to be first. This is a challenge to both men and women. The purpose of women leading the way is to exhibit an overt illustration of the power of nonviolence. The people of the earth are not enemies and not a threat to each other? We come in peace! Each day our world is becoming more violent and going in the wrong direction. People around the world are waiting for something different, a new vision! The world needs a counter balance, a movement for world-wide unity and nonviolence, giving credence to the moderate voice and showing mutual respect. The way I propose to accomplish this is the implementation of a three phase, global movement of Nonviolent Resistance to violence and war. My goal is to transcend borders and build bridges. The method we suggest is for every country to create collaborative programs for the children. To accomplish this, "Strategies of Conflict Resolution" must be implemented. The resolve conflict, the question asked will be, what are you doing for the children. To prepare countries to work together on these strategies, we call upon women to be the catalyst to lead the way for all three phases. In war, there is a Call to Arms. For peace, we respectfully issue a "Call to Women". We begin with a smile. We proceed striving to give hope, knowing that the initiative makes us feel good, not angry. The world needs practical methods to, step by step, find peace. We also need idealistic, symbolic inspiration. A "Global Strategy of Nonviolence" is a new political philosophy which both provides inspiration and delineates practical methods for creating peace. Combined with a catalyst, a "Call to Women," there can be "World Wide Unity."