

## **Is There Hope for Harmony in the World?**

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Current events these days are all related to intolerance and the world coming to an end. The Ferguson case brought back bitter memories of racial inequalities and freedom. There were riots throughout the nation reminding one of events in Selma. Recent events happening around the world have been devastating. A group of people calling themselves Islamic States (ISIS) carried out two terrorist attacks – one in Beirut and next day in Paris, on innocent people. These events raise several questions. Is this the beginning of the end of the human race? Is there hope for humanity? How can we bring world peace? Will people ever learn to respect each other and live in harmony?

History has repeatedly shown that there is kindness in people's hearts. Nations have united in the past to help each other irrespective of political and religious boundaries. United Nations was created in 1945 after the devastation of the Second World War with the sole mission of maintaining international peace and security. Relief organizations like the Red Cross and UNICEF are other examples of how nations are working together to improve lives of people including children and women. More recently, when natural disasters affected small countries like Haiti and Nepal, people from all around the world came to help in the relief efforts. Nations worldwide joined efforts to not only provide food and first aid immediately following the earthquake, but also helped rebuild the country.

The Olympic Games are a great example of HOPE for changing the world. Men and women from all backgrounds and races come together during the Olympics. The Olympic torch symbolizes humanity and mankind. The flame that unites the world as one. The fundamental principles of the Olympics are "Striving for excellence", "Demonstrating respect", and "Celebrating friendship". These principles which are aimed at encouraging people to live and work together can be applied to everyday life to promote peace.

Each person is unique in one way or another. If we all learn to respect each other and develop an open-mindedness towards our classmate's opinion, then we develop an attitude of tolerance. We stand to gain more by working together and with each other rather than working against each other. Remember to keep in mind, that sometimes there is no harm in extending assistance to another person simply because you can. All it needs is a little effort, an open mind and tolerance. Do not be afraid to extend a hand of friendship. Let's work together for a better future and a better peaceful and harmonious world. After all there is only one Earth!