

ENITA NAKAŠ on Peace

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Life is constantly evolving, and the world around us keeps changing.

As Yuval Noah Harari highlights in his interview, we must adapt to these changes and avoid being stuck in old patterns of thinking. While it is important to reflect on how we arrived at this point, it's even more critical to focus on where we are headed.

Health, peace, and well-being

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), true health encompasses complete physical, mental, and social well-being—not just the absence of disease. Similarly, peace is not only the absence of war or civil unrest but also the presence of harmony and social tranquility. These elements are essential for a thriving society.

Education as a fundamental human right

Education is a cornerstone of human development and is recognized as a basic right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Quality education helps individuals distinguish between facts and fiction, beginning at foundational levels like PISA standards for elementary and high school, and continuing into higher education and universities.

Students: Social Acceptance vs. Conformity

Human beings today are primarily oriented toward harmony and social tranquility. They seek social acceptance, but this should not be confused with blind conformity. Research shows that today's youth are shifting from being inactive to proactive in addressing societal issues.

Generation Z, characterized by their openness to diversity and strong digital presence, reflects a new approach to societal norms. They are actively seeking change, especially through their emphasis on social justice and inclusion, using digital platforms to advocate for transformation (Pew Research Center)

The Role of Universities in Societal Progress

Universities have a dual responsibility: they must equip students with practical skills and foster a sense of social responsibility. The shift from assimilation to inclusion, with a focus on diversity, is vital for creating educational environments that promote peace and harmony—elements often missing from education models.

Including Peace in Everyday Education

Peace can be integrated into education through curriculum changes, lectures, and the social actions of universities and professors. Encouraging discussions and actions around harmony, conflict resolution, and social responsibility can help instill these values in students. Teach: by action and preach.

Action: Demonstrate your principles through your behavior. Your actions should reflect the values and lessons you are teaching, showing integrity and commitment.

Preach: Share your **science based knowledge** clearly and compellingly.

Alliances and Social Change

Before formal alliances existed, people connected over specific interests, much like how fans gather for a concert. However, alliances now go further by uniting diverse subjects and stakeholders, making them powerful tools for driving change in universities and society as a whole.

Conclusion

Learn, adapt, improve. Learning and adaptation are the foundations of growth. Alliance: Learn together, accept differences, adapt, and teach.

Ask yourselves: Am I willing to ¹change?



¹ Picture by DALL-E 2024-09-12 10.30.44 - A fun and colorful diagram illustrating a cycle of learning and adaptation with the word 'Alliance' at the center.