

***WE, THE
PEOPLE***

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Why is accepting our differences still a challenge for some, even though we live in the 21st century? We will never be the same and that's what makes us people. In a world full of hatred and discrimination there are still people who fight for each other's rights and don't let anyone destroy their love for others. People who know what's going on around the world and will support the good and bring down the bad. We are different and that's alright, our differences are our own values! In a world where people discriminate towards skin colour, gender, sexualities, religions... We are the ones to help make us all equal!

DIVERSITY AS A VALUE

"Why am I like this?" It is a question used a lot among us people. We are how we are and some things cannot be changed which might be for the best. It's better to be your authentic self than somebody you don't even recognise. People are different in many ways, in ways that we may or may not notice at first sight. I find it very cool when people express themselves the way they want to through music, styles, languages, art, hobbies or the smallest details you only notice when you get to know a person better. Everything we do takes some time and just to express yourself takes a lot of confidence. To build up this confidence we need to get to know ourselves, work on ourselves, face our fears, talk to others... Our differences enrich us; they are a part of us that needs to be seen. People have always been different; it will always be that way. Being different from one another is the one thing that is common to us all. What some people don't understand is that being different doesn't always have to be a bad thing. It's a sign that you are comfortable in what you do and accept yourself just by being you.

PREJUSTICE, DISCRIMINATION, HIDRANCE

However, just like love, hate has been among us forever as well. Some people just can't accept the fact that not everybody is the same.

There are people of different skin colours all over the world. Throughout history people who weren't white were seen as less or even worthless. Skin colour should never define a person's life nor end it. Nobody should be punished for something they can't change. In schools, kids are bullied for having a different skin colour and that causes a lot of self-hatred, losing confidence and depression among people of all ages.

Even through religion, we've never been the same. Different religions have had different beliefs since the early days, as a result there are bad relationships between countries even to this day. Some people believe in something above them, some in something below them and some don't believe in anything. If you don't feel comfortable in a religion you were born in, you should have every right to change it. Some religions have their own rules which can end in bad punishments if broken, even death.

Throughout history many people didn't accept anything else besides men and women, lots of them didn't even respect women. If you weren't straight there were punishments, some even ended in death. We should support everybody no matter who they are or who they love. Love isn't a crime and it shouldn't be treated as such. I find it disgusting how in some countries same gender marriages are illegal but child marriages aren't. According to Girls Not Brides, this applies to India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Chad, Afghanistan and many more. More than 12 million girls get married by the age of 18 every year. Everybody should love who they want as long as it's age appropriate. If love doesn't hurt anyone, there can't be anything wrong with it.

GLOBAL PROBLEMS AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEM

There are many problems happening in this world right now and a lot of people are just ignoring it. Sometimes it feels like history is repeating itself. We've tried to build good relationships through time but now we're slowly destroying them.

There are multiple wars going on, which cause starvation and a lack of education and healthcare among younger people. Bullying has become increasingly common among teens which causes school shootings and suicide rise because of depression. A big threat are diseases and viruses that cause over 1.5 million deaths every year. In America more than 500.000 people have been deported since Donald Trump has become the president.

On the other hand, climate change like global warming and other extreme weather events are becoming a big problem. Water scarcity is a shortage of fresh water and is a serious issue as it prevents many people from having access to drinking water. Deforestation is also a major problem worldwide, where a big number of trees are being cut down every hour of every day.

Why do we still let tragedies like this happen?

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Silence is the biggest weapon of hatred. If we stay silent about the things that are happening over the world, we are basically supporting them.

It's important to speak about the situations people are living in, especially people in countries in wars. There is genocide happening in Palestine that gets bombed by Israel almost every day and people are dying of starvation.

Peace Direct is a movement for peace, it's an international NGO dedicated to stopping violence and creating peace that lasts. They help local organisations in conflict zones to get resources, training and safety they need to work. You can take action and sign up to push governments to stop arming Israel and you can donate to them as well.

In countries such as Sudan and Congo, women and girls don't have things for feminine hygiene and young girls don't even know how to deal with their first menstruation. There are a lot of people who volunteer to help them and travel from all around the world to bring them necessities.

In today's world many people are protesting for abortion to become illegal and are supporting the idea that a woman or a girl should carry and take care of a baby that was not planned. If a woman or a girl is raped and gets pregnant, she should have every right to abort it. In America every 74 seconds a person is raped and every 9 minutes the person is a child. That is millions of people yearly all over the world. It's never a victim's fault and SA survivors should speak up even though it's hard as it's for the better.

My Voice, My Choice is an initiative that is evolving into one of Europe's largest feminist movements. It's a movement of activists, friends and individuals. Currently they are fighting to legalise abortion all over Europe. They went to the European parliament and they won on November 5th. The parliament adopted the gender equality strategy 2025, including support for My Voice, My Choice. However, their opponents, sadly, managed to delay their vote in the parliament. They are still fighting hard, and you can sign up and donate to make abortion legal all-around Europe.

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish environmental activist who focuses on the problem of climate change. She started as a teenager and talked about the problems in this world to many presidential figures at the age of 15. She went to Palestine to help the people, but Israel caught her and later in October even deported her. She won't stop fighting for the people whose voices are being silenced all over the world.

To sum up, if we want to defeat hatred, we need to start with ourselves. Hate won't disappear on its own, love and support are stronger if we cultivate them together. Every single one of us can help with our voice, hope and empathy. Our differences are what connects us. We could help each other just by sticking up with one another and that's something not everybody is able to do.

We, the people, should learn to love, care, trust and, most importantly, support each other.

We, the people, were never supposed to hate each other for the things we can't change.

We, the people, have the power to create the world, where *love* is bigger than *hate*.

We, the people, are just people.