

## COMPASSION IS THE KEY TO WORLD PEACE

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As we all know internal conflicts are created because of the inability and reluctance to accept and respect difference, they are healthy for a society to move forward, but the inability to manage and transform them to be the positive change is the biggest challenge that the world face, and therefore, these conflicts grow to levels of widening the difference, where polarization divide people further. which leads to armed conflicts with severe damage to lives and property. During the past few decades, conflict landscape also changed dramatically, , not only the weapons used were very different from the conventional ones, but also the motives and the techniques used were challenging even for the most modern defense establishments to counter. More and more wars were fought in villages, towns and cities, and the damage done to civilian life is completely out of proportion for anyone with a right-thinking mind to comprehend. The world has turned into a constant migration track for people running from gun fire, shelling, and bombing, leaving their homes. Women and children are the most, who pay the brunt. There was no room for negotiations since there was nothing to agree or disagree upon, thus peace talks became irrelevant and left no option other than destruction. Today the world has even bigger issue of wars between two countries, unlike in the recent past where the borders were respected, amidst bigger challengers of climate and unforeseen situation such as COVID – 19 which can paralyze the entire world, in this backdrop peace building becomes ever more important even more than 75 years ago when the United Nations was established to achieve and sustain world peace.

We all know that when levels of fear rise the levels of trust diminish. TRUST is the most vital ingredient for peace. Be it between governments and its people, governments to governments, or people to people, communities to communities, across ethnic/rachial, color or religious differences. As much as TRUST, DIGNITY is equally important, for people to understand and realize that they are treated equally, Thus EQUALITY and JUSTICE is utmost important. When one speaks of equality who comes first to our minds, it is the women because women call for equality in every corner of the world. And who will be best suited to understand and address discrimination, it is the women themselves. The world must understand the unique qualities that women bring to peace building and utilize this existing vital resource for world peace. It is very important to understand and recognize the vital role played by women, not only at the grassroot levels, from Columbia to Philippines, identifying and detecting the early warning signs, mitigating disagreements, and creating spaces for discussions, but also their involvement in track I and II level initiatives not only within but also cross regions and continents. Women can build trust, not only because of their ability to understand the other better, but also, their ability to look at the other with compassion, **THAT IS THE KEY TO WORLD PEACE.**