

YOUTH RISE FOR PEACE

Assalamualaikum and a good evening,

Firstly I would like to thank everybody that has supported me throughout, it is really an honour for me to be a part and lead WAY for the exiting times ahead.

I would like to thank my predecessor for his dedicated contribution and tireless effort into making this organization what it is today.

In the past decade we have witnessed one of the most rapid transformation in the worlds history, events such as an economic crisis, natural disasters, wars being waged, famine in parts of the world, threat of terrorism, an energy crisis that almost drove the world into bankruptcy, climate change occurring at an unprecedented level, spread of new viruses and diseases..

We have to ask ourselves a fundamental question, .. How did we get into this mess..

However in the same decade we also witnessed one of the highest employment opportunities expansion, more vaccines being distributed to parts of the world where before it would be difficult or yet impossible, connectivity of persons such as the usage of handphones, emails, facebook seem to be the norm, ... human beings today are far more connected then they ever were, the rise of new budget airlines has meant that getting to one place is not only cheaper but more places can be explored, new innovative ways to combat climate change due to advance in technology is being created daily... the sky is the limit some might say..

But what does this for the youth?.. as we look into the future, what kind of legacy do we want to leave behind to our kids, do we want to leave behind a world that we had inherited or do we want to leave behind a world that is much better and safer where everybody has the same amount of opportunity to succeed and where respect is not just a word loosely used but an actual deed unto itself. (pause)

The answer lies in your hands.. as president of the WAY I challenge you today to take that question and think,.. who has the ability to make and effect these changes, where does the power really lie..

We might think that the problems of today is beyond our hands because the status quo seems too rigid and catered only for the select minor... but believe me when I say the real power lies with the like-minded youth as yourselves here to spread the message of change..

Let me give you an example.. The slavery trade which was famous in Europe and North America happened about 200 hundred years ago, it was cruel and inhumane.. Although it had been around way longer than that but never at such a wide scale... at the time the thought of abolishing the trade seemed like an impossible task as slavery was a daily occurrence and had benefited the land.. However there were few who thought it was inhumane and wanted it abolished...

They succeeded in ending this gruesome trade not in a day but by a belief that what they thought to be wrong needed to end...

What seemed like an impossible task as slavery had been around for thousands of years managed to come to a halt by a group of young people who believed that what they were fighting for was right and they knew the ability to change the world rested at their hands...

The same lessons can also be done for the challenges we face today... war for example... which is seen to be an impossible human trait to end , can also be stopped from ever occurring if we the youth believe that it should...

I have always believed that there can no victors in war but only bloodshed for both sides..

The mass connectivity that we have today is unprecedented... the usage of the internet is a powerful tool... there has never been a time where human connectivity and communication has been so rapid... you can be in this room and emailing somebody on the other part of the planet and the person would get it immediately...

But what does instant communication mean?... how can we use it to benefit and shape the world we live in today...

Today the usage of facebook and other forms of new media has allowed us to further understand each other... these tools has allowed us to break the barrier of location...

Most conflicts occur out of lack of communication and understanding of one another... we the youth have a golden opportunity than ever before to make that leap and go beyond what we see daily...

It is obvious that we inherited an imperfect world... but it doesn't mean we cannot make a differences or try to make it better...

The challenges that we will face will be tougher and more complicated than before, the demand for energy would be double than what it was a decade ago... as new markets emerge surely this would have an impact on consumption thus an increase in energy usage...

The issue of climate change cannot be taken lightly by the youth of today... the past decade has also seen one of the highest occurrence of natural disasters and the spread of viruses, whether the impact of climate change had much to do about this is still being debated but what is clear is that there is work to be done in order ensure that cleaner air is ensured for future in a world today that seems to put the main priority of profits...

This whole issue of war, energy crisis and climate has a lot to do with one fundamental answer which has been a cliché but never fully bloomed which is education... it is at the heart of what we seek to achieve... today more than ever before more children both men and women are being thought on the importance in taking a stand on issues that matter most in making a change in a world they inherit...

It has always been a core belief in me that education is the key to make a difference... a youth of today can be better than their parents by giving them an opportunity to learn... one must not be stuck in their strata level or by the condition or class level they were being born into... the youth must never be confined or denied that opportunity to improve themselves.

Education opportunities for the youth regardless of gender, race or belief is at the stepping stone to making any sort of change we seek...

As president I would work hard in ensuring that these issues are addressed in a manner that gets the appropriate attention and that sufficient action is taken into making the world that we inherit together not safer but also a sustainable one for generations to come...

I believe that wars are do little or no benefit to mankind... however I believe that not all wars should end and some wars need to be fought harder... such as the war on poverty, drugs, illiteracy, climate change and most of all on war itself.

Once again I like to thank everybody for supporting me and I hope I will carry on this task to the best of my ability and I look forward to working with you all.

Thank you...